

# HALIFAX metro



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## Best holiday gift may be red, free and viscous

Moving letter written by blood-donation recipient urges people to give this season **PAGE 4**

## Ford offered \$5K for video: Document

Police believe they overheard people on wiretaps saying the T.O. mayor wanted that video **PAGE 10**

## A MOST COMPLEX ORGANISM

METRO LOOKS AT THE MULTISIDED SEAL DEBATE **PAGE 16-17**



## EQUIPPED TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

Halifax Mooseheads equipment manager Chris MacDonald poses for a photo inside the team's locker room on Wednesday. MacDonald will be heading to Sweden later this month to help with the Canadian junior hockey team that is competing at the world championships. Story, page 45. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Half price gets thumbs-up

**Transit.** Low-income residents may soon get discounted passes

**Spring start**

The proposed start date of the pilot project is May 2014.



**RUTH DAVENPORT**  
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The city's transportation standing committee is recommending approval of discounted transit passes for low-income residents.

The committee voted unanimously Wednesday to send the proposal for a six-month pilot project to regional council for adoption.

Coun. Jennifer Watts said 500 half-price monthly passes would be available via an application to Metro Transit.

"What we're really talking about here is an option for people not on social assistance," she said. "We're talking about the working poor, people in our communities could potentially come onto the bus if it was provided for them."

Metro Transit officials said

the program would cost at most \$20,000 per month, if all applicants were previously monthly pass users.

"We would anticipate that a number of people that take advantage of the program would either not use transit currently or would be occasional transit users," said Patricia Hughes, Metro Transit supervisor of service design & projects. "So there's an anticipation that there would be some new revenue."

Coun. Russell Walker said the program is a start, but said HRM could and should do even more to help residents who are barely making ends meet.

"Fifty per cent, it's still \$450 (per year)," he said. "I'll support this, but down the road in six months' time, I'll be looking to go further than this to help the residents ... get about the city."

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# Skye developer weighing its options for project

## Towers.

United Gulf president re-examining 'Twisted Sisters' plan



**RUTH DAVENPORT**  
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A little over a year after Halifax regional council scuttled plans for two 48-storey towers, the developer behind the Skye Halifax project says he's weighing his options for the next step.

"We're working on a plan, but it's not something that we have finalized yet," said Navid Saberi, president of United Gulf Developments.

Council voted down the proposed development on Nov. 20, 2012, because it violated HRMbyDesign guidelines for height and street setbacks, among others.

Saberi said Wednesday he's now weighing the option of building as-of-right, which would allow 21 storeys, and

## Quoted

"I would rather see development on a site, at least have a plan approved, but I do think that these are extenuating circumstances."

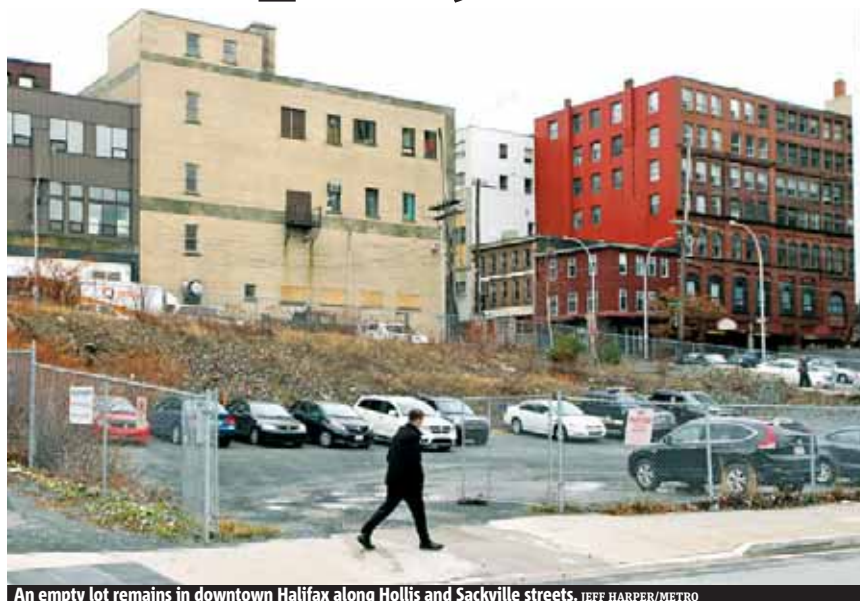
Mayor Mike Savage

examining the development agreement for the 'Twisted Sisters' — the twin 27-storey tower proposal that preceded Skye Halifax.

"We're just in a basically, a process of analyzing those scenarios," he said. "We just have to do something, right, so we just might look at what is allowed and just get that done."

The fact that the Tex-Park site — bounded by Hollis, Granville and Sackville streets — remains vacant eight years after Saberi submitted his original plans came up as a point of concern during Tuesday's council discussion of the regional plan.

Mayor Mike Savage said



An empty lot remains in downtown Halifax along Hollis and Sackville streets. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Wednesday he'd like to see a plan for the site soon, but added the developer needs time to regroup.

"Probably it's something we need to have discussions

about in the near future, that is an important piece of land for us," he said. "But I also recognize it was a bit of a blow last year when we turned down the Skye project and it takes a

while to redo plans."

Saberi said he will submit something to City Hall once he's decided on a course of action, suggesting it could be in the next year to 18 months.

## CN preparing response on commuter rail study

City staff are still awaiting a response from CN on the possibility of the rail company's participation in a long-awaited feasibility study on commuter rail.

Metro Transit supervisor Patricia Hughes told the transportation standing committee that the company is preparing to respond to October's written request to join in the

study.

"We haven't heard back from CN," she said. "I did check in with them last week, and I've been told there was a draft letter and it just hasn't been signed and sent yet."

The city has approved a feasibility study of using existing CN lines for commuter rail from Bedford to the south end.

The study needs CN's cooperation, which has been confounded by a legal dispute with HRM over maintenance of several bridges.

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled in CN's favour in October, prompting the transportation committee members to ask city staff for monthly updates on the ongoing correspondence.

Hughes told the committee Wednesday that a tender for the study is being prepared and could be ready in January.

City solicitors have said HRM has legislative tools to compel CN's participation, but Coun. David Hendsbee suggested going down a political road as well.

"VIA Rail does provide commuter service for CN in

other jurisdictions," he said. "Could we go a more political route sending a letter to the minister in charge of VIA Rail and having their attention brought to focus on having CN participate?"

Committee chair Coun. Reg Rankin suggested waiting for CN's response before exploring the political option.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO



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1 NEWS



# 'It truly does save lives'

## Giving thanks.

Identical twins urge people to give blood this holiday season



ALY THOMSON  
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One unit of blood, one donation, one visit to a clinic, can make the difference between life and death.

It made the difference for Alexa MacDonald, who needed an emergency blood transfusion nearly 12 years ago on Christmas Eve after developing an infection.

MacDonald and her identical twin sister Julia were born 10 weeks premature on Dec. 9, 2001, weighing just two pounds each. Less than one unit of blood was needed to save Alexa's life.

"I was just really thankful for that person who took his or her time to give blood. I know Julia was too because it's pretty boring without me around," said Alexa with a sheepish giggle.

"It truly does save lives."

The inseparable sisters, now healthy 11-year-olds,

## 'Tis the time to give

### Donors down in Dec.

Canadian Blood Services spokeswoman Renée Horton said although the province isn't experiencing a shortfall of blood, there's always a decrease in donors in December.

"We're asking for people in their rush and hustle and bustle ... that maybe to take an hour of their time, put it on their to-do list and donate blood," said Horton.

ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

sported sizeable smiles at the Canadian Blood Services's Halifax clinic on Wednesday.

The pair, from Grand Lake, were personally thanking donors who were giving blood in chaises at the clinic and urging others to give blood this holiday season.

The national blood organization is handing out information cards this month that features a letter written by Julia.

"I just wanted people to be aware, to donate blood around the holiday season, even though it's pretty busy at that time because people are out Christmas shopping and stuff," she said of the letter.

Julia bills her sister's



Identical twins Julia MacDonald, left, and Alexa, 11, thank people for donating blood at the Canadian Blood Services in Halifax on Wednesday. Alexa received a life-saving blood transfusion when she was an infant. ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

## By the numbers

# 4,200

The number of donations Canadian Blood Services will need in Nova Scotia this month

story as "a miracle."

"It was shocking and scary, because we both almost didn't make it, but she was sicker," said Julia, glancing over at her sibling.

"It would have been really bad not having her around, because like she says, it's boring without her."

Arlene Seto, who was at the clinic giving blood on

Wednesday, said she was touched after hearing what happened to Alexa.

"My heart certainly was fluttering more than usual," said Seto, who has been giving

blood as part of a workplace commitment for about two years.

"To have those two girls here, it validates that we're doing the right thing."

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## Centennial Pool will remain closed until new year due to renovations

HRM says Centennial Pool won't reopen this month as planned as it wades through renovations at the 45-year-old facility.

The city says over the course of the renovations, it was discovered that the building's structural supports needed repairs.

That work was required before contractors could return to renovations already underway in public areas of the downtown Halifax pool, including the change rooms, showers and reception area.

The municipality says



The Centennial Pool  
JEFF HARPER/METRO

the facility, which has been closed since August, is now scheduled to reopen in late

January.

The pool will boast better lighting, tiles and new showers once the makeover is complete. The foyer will also get a new reception desk.

It's the third of three phases of HRM's Centennial project. The first two phases focused on behind-the-scenes electrical and mechanical work.

The municipality says when the work is complete, it should extend the life of the building by another 20 years. METRO





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# Province has no plans to repeal bike-helmet law

**All-ages rule.** Minister says province has lowest rate of cycling-related brain injuries



**HALEY RYAN**  
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The province's health and wellness minister has spoken out on the recent debate surrounding bike helmet laws in Nova Scotia, saying in a statement the evidence is "overwhelmingly in favour" of keeping the all-ages rule.

Last week, members of the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) voted to look into the benefits of repealing the helmet legislation to make cycling more accessible.

ling more accessible.

Minister Leo Glavine's op-ed Wednesday said while he respects everyone's right to voice their opinion, the helmet law introduced in 1997 has helped the province to have the lowest rate of cycling-related brain injuries in Canada.

"The evidence is overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining (the legislation)," Glavine said. "One thing we will not do is change the effective helmet legislation that is helping keep Nova Scotians ... safe from injury."

Doug Denny, HCC co-founder, brought up the original idea and said Wednesday he was happy to see the minister directly engaged.

He said while biking to work is no more dangerous than driving a car or walking,

## Quoted

**"A helmet is your only chance of preventing a brain injury that could change you and your family's lives forever."**

IWK Health Centre's Dr. Natalie Yanchar

there's still a perception that it's unsafe in Halifax.

Denny said now that Glavine is engaged, he hopes to hear more about infrastructure improvements like separate bike lanes on busy streets to help cyclists feel comfortable.

"I understand where they're coming from with the all-ages helmet law, and let's keep the conversation going," Denny said.

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## A wet start to December

A motorist hits some flooding on the Hammonds Plains road on Wednesday morning. There was plenty of water on the streets for the morning commute thanks to heavy rain overnight Tuesday. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

## Support for Grits swelling: Poll

A new poll says the Nova Scotia Liberals have gained support since taking over government in early October.

Halifax-based Corporate Research Associates Inc. says roughly 58 per cent of Nova Scotians support the Grits, up about 17 per cent from the last poll in August.

Roughly 19 per cent of people surveyed supported the Progressive Conservatives, while the NDP garnered the same number of supporters.

On election night Oct. 8, the

Liberals had about 45 per cent of the popular vote, while the NDP and the Tories each had about 26 per cent.

About half of residents surveyed by CRA said they were satisfied with the new government, while support for Premier Stephen McNeil increased 16 per cent to 46 per cent.

The poll is based on a survey of 800 adult Nova Scotians and was conducted from Nov. 6 to Nov. 28. It's accurate to within 3.5 percentage points, 95 times out of 100. **METRO**



**Stephen McNeil** **JEFF HARPER/METRO**



## Fourth incident. Man hit by Metro Transit SUV in Halifax crosswalk

Halifax police say a Metro Transit supervisor driving one of their SUVs hit a 19-year-old man in a crosswalk in south-end Halifax on Wednesday evening.

It's the fourth person to be hit in a Halifax-area crosswalk in the past three days.

Police say just before 6 p.m., the 19-year-old was crossing in a crosswalk on South Street near Dalplex when he was hit by the Metro Transit SUV driven by a 48-year-old man.

The pedestrian was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police say a decision hasn't been made on whether to ticket the driver.

Norm Collins, a local crosswalk safety advocate who runs his own website titled crosswalksafety.ca, said he keeps track of the pedestrian accidents by checking the Halifax Regional Police reports.

According to Collins, there have been 33 pedestrians hit in a crosswalk in 2013 as of Dec. 4, compared to 21 in the same timeframe last year.

### The other three

- A woman was hit on Robie Street Monday, while that evening a 24-year-old man was hit crossing the Bedford Highway.
- A 58-year-old man was also hit Tuesday night on Lemarchant Street, suffering minor injuries.

December had the highest number of incidents last year (six), so Collins said there will likely be a few more before the holidays are over.

"It's darker earlier, people are out zipping around for shopping ... so, it's probably not surprising," Collins said Wednesday, prior to this most recent incident.

Collins said there's no "obvious" reason for the jump from last year's numbers, but distracted driving has increased in the last five or 10 years with new technology and cell phones. **METRO**

## Walmart. Man smashed display window and stole electronics, police say

A 39-year-old man has been arrested after police believe he broke a display at the New Glasgow Walmart and made off with a substantial amount of electronics.

The smash-and-dash happened around 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

New Glasgow Regional Police responded and put out an alert to other police depart-

ments.

The man was arrested later in Colchester County, where he is also accused of stealing.

Const. Ken MacDonald of the New Glasgow Regional Police said the man is from Cape Breton.

In addition to the charges of theft, he is also charged with breach of probation.

**NEW GLASGOW NEWS**



The home where Stanley Ernest Adams's body was found by police on Tuesday. **YARMOUTH VANGUARD**

# Senior dead for 'quite some time' before being found

### Suspicious death.

Police call charges laid on nephew 'rare' after body found in Yarmouth



**PHILIP CROUCHER**  
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A 43-year-old man is facing several charges including indignities to human remains after a 76-year-old man was found dead inside a Yarmouth home.

Timothy Stanley Adams is also charged with one count of neglecting to perform duties with reference to burial.

On Tuesday at 2 p.m., Yar-

mouth police conducted a well-being check at a home on Grove Road and found the body of 76-year-old Stanley Ernest Adams. Police are calling the man's death suspicious.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain LeBlanc wouldn't confirm the relationship between the victim and the accused, but Metro has learned they are uncle and nephew.

LeBlanc also didn't know specifically how long the man had been dead for, but said it was for "quite some time" and "not a matter of days."

"It's very rare. You don't see that often," said LeBlanc about the charges facing the 43-year-old nephew.

A neighbour has told the

### Few details

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain LeBlanc said he didn't know the condition of the body when it was found.

Yarmouth Vanguard it appears the victim may have been dead for quite a while. She said the man who lived in the residence was a hoarder of cats, and back in the spring — around May and June — cats started showing up at her house.

She said the RCMP have been showing up at the home since late last week. They would knock on the door and

then leave, then return the following day.

"They kept banging and banging on the door and there was cop cars there continuously," she said.

The woman said residents in the area had been concerned about the man for months, as he hadn't been seen for some time, yet the house has looked lived in for a long time — it was decorated for Halloween and a Christmas wreath is on the front door. The grass was also mowed.

Neighbours said the man had a heart attack last year but came back home after being in the hospital.

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Dancers, from left, Lucie Schmidt, Ampai Thammachack and Natalie Ash will be part of Symphony Nova Scotia's annual production of the Nutcracker.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Curtain rising again for The Nutcracker

**Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.** Annual production ready for its holiday run

The timeless music, colourful sets and swirling costumes of Symphony Nova Scotia's holiday staple The Nutcracker are back this weekend for a run at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

Natalie Ash, 17, has been dancing in the ballet for the past five years and appears as a

shepherdess this season.

"When I was little, Mom always brought me to see the show and I ... was just amazed by everything," Ash said with a smile in between rehearsals on Wednesday.

"I always thought, 'Wow, I

should strive to be there."

The 23rd annual Nutcracker production by Halifax Dance, the symphony and Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia includes over 40 dancers and puppeteers.

Ash said though the story of a young girl who falls asleep in a dormitory and wakes up in a fantasy world with the Nutcracker is always the same, every year brings "tweaks" and changes for the dancers.

But the final pas de deux between Clara and the Nutcracker, played by Henry Jackson for

the 10th year, remains Ash's favourite.

"I really enjoy it. It's really powerful, I think," Ash said.

The ballet and Tchaikovsky score have been around for over 100 years, but Ash said it's the beauty of dance and sense of tradition that keeps people coming back year after year.

"It's so magical," Ash said. "It's important for our community to have somewhere to go in the holiday season with everybody there, and share that experience."

HALEY RYAN/METRO

## More online

The Nutcracker runs Friday through Dec. 14. Visit [symphonynovascotia.com](http://symphonynovascotia.com) for ticket information.

## Workplace. N.S. clarifying rules on safety infractions

The Nova Scotia government has introduced legislation that it says would clarify when fines and other penalties are imposed for workplace violations that include lack of signs and safety equipment.

Labour Minister Kelly Regan says the amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act are a first step to new regulations that will help her department focus on more serious infractions, repeat offenders and safety education.

Regan says the regulations expected next year will include details on when administrative fines should be levied.

A provincial review of administrative penalties aired complaints from employers



Kelly Regan  
METRO

who said fines were issued inconsistently and sometimes unfairly.

That was an issue highlighted in a report released last month by the province's auditor general, who urged a greater emphasis on prevention measures in the workplace.

Maximum fines for workplace violations range from \$500 for an employee to \$2,000 for an employer, though those fines could double if the offence occurs again within a three-year period.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Appeal court. Tar ponds class-action overturned

The Nova Scotia Court of Appeal has overturned the certification of a class-action lawsuit by Cape Breton residents who claimed the Sydney tar ponds exposed them to contaminants.

The court issued its decision following several days of hearings last March between the claimants and the provincial and federal governments.

Lawyers for the two levels of government argued the provincial Supreme Court judge erred in certifying the case because there are too many differences in the individual cases for the matter to be heard as a class-action lawsuit.

The appeal court judges

## Plaintiffs

The original lawsuit was filed by local residents Neila MacQueen, Joe Petitpas, Ann Ross and Iris Crawford, who are seeking compensation and a medical monitoring fund for contamination resulting from the operation of the steel plant from 1967 to 2000.

agreed, finding that there was too much variance in the issues and that a class-action suit was not the best way to proceed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Police think Ford offered to buy video for \$5K and a car

**Rob Ford saga.** City council stripped him of most of his powers last month, but he said he'll run in the next municipal election

Police believe they overheard people on wiretaps during a gang investigation saying Toronto Mayor Rob Ford offered \$5,000 and a car in exchange for a video, according to a newly released police document.

The document contains police evidence from wiretaps on which alleged gang members and men arrested in a sweeping guns and drugs investigation talk with familiarity about the mayor and suggest they had supplied him with drugs.

Toronto police were in the midst of that large investigation, known as Project Traveller, when the mayor's name surfaced on the intercepts in March and April, police allege.

The document, containing allegations not proven in court, suggests some of the Project Traveller targets also talked about using images of Ford using drugs to blackmail him. They were also heard saying they "love and respect Rob Ford," but have evidence of him in a lot of messed up situations and don't want to say anything, the document says.

One man says on the wiretaps that he has many pictures of Ford "doing the hezza," and another man suggests those



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford wipes his brow in the council chamber at city hall as councillors pass motions to limit his powers on Nov. 18. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

pictures would be worth a lot, says the document. Hezza can be used as a slang term for heroin.

The mayor's name allegedly emerged on the wiretaps about two months before the Toronto Star and U.S. website Gawker first reported that alleged drug dealers were shopping around a video that appeared to show Ford smoking crack cocaine.

Information that police gathered from those wiretaps was in the remaining portions of a document filed in the drug case of Ford's friend Alexander Lisi.

Portions that were previously released showed former staffers alleged the mayor was intoxicated at work, drank while driving and associated with suspected prostitutes.

The last portions to be made public summarize an intercepted conversation police allege they heard on March 27. Investigators heard two men talking about plans to sell a tape and quoting Ford as saying "I'll give you 5,000 and a car," police allege in the document.

Mohamed Siad, who police believe was trying to sell the so-called crack video, said

during the conversation that he would meet with him and ask for "150," which police believed meant \$150,000, the document says.

The other man warned Siad that wouldn't be wise, as he would be putting himself in jeopardy, the document says. Siad, like most of the men monitored, was arrested as part of Project Traveller, and was later stabbed in jail. Police do not connect the stabbing to the video in the document.

Ford's lawyer, Dennis Morris, told television station CP24 the latest allegations are baseless. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Homicide

### Crack video a motive for man's murder, police told

Court documents unsealed Wednesday point to two rumoured motives for the murder of alleged gang member Anthony Smith: a retaliation over a robbery or, as Rob Ford's staff told police, the infamous crack cocaine video.

Sections of the new document detail how Ford's former chief of staff Mark Towhey and former "logistics director" David Price spoke with the police about how an anonymous tipster gave Price information about the video and Smith.

According to the documents, Price told Towhey, Doug Ford and later the police about two anonymous calls he received on May 17, the day after the crack video reports broke.

After Towhey contacted the police with Price's story, Price was interviewed. He told police on the morning of May 17, he got a call from a unknown number offering him information on "the drug dealers who had (the) tape" and gave the nickname and phone number Mohamed Siad (since identified by police as one of the people trying to sell the tape)

and his friend, Mohamed Farah. In a second call that afternoon, Price was told the dealers who have the video could be found at unit 1703, 320 Dixon Rd.

As a result of the call, Price told Towhey, and later the police, the video was the motive for Smith's murder, the document states.

However, the police had a different theory about the murder, via the wiretaps being run in the Project Traveller gang investigation.

At the Loki Lounge on March 28, just before he was shot, Smith texted Liban Siyad to say he saw Saad Mohiadin at the club and planned to assault him, the document says.

Siyad replied, "Okay halal meat," which police believe means "dead meat" or "kill him." In minutes, an altercation ensued, and Smith and Mohamed Khattak were shot. Smith died in hospital.

"The motive for the murder was also detailed during interceptions, and revealed the murder may have been retaliation for Smith and his associates robbing Mohiadin aka 'Post' last November," police wrote.

In the document, police noted that the motive for murder Price gave them is "believed to be incorrect" based on the robbery motive they heard on the wiretaps.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/  
METRO IN TORONTO

## Expense scandal

### Liberal senator wants Gerstein off committee

Conservative Sen. Irving Gerstein has thwarted a Liberal move to oust him as chairman of a powerful Senate committee until he explains his role in the upper chamber's expenses scandal.

Liberal Sen. Céline Hervieux-Payette raised a point of order Wednesday asking that Gerstein step aside as chairman of the banking, trade and com-

merce committee until his name is cleared by the RCMP or he agrees to testify before another Senate committee about his role.

Gerstein, who heads the Conservative party's fundraising arm, has been identified in RCMP documents as a central figure in the scheme to reimburse Sen. Mike Duffy for his invalid expense claims and to interfere in an independent audit of Duffy's expenses.

Gerstein and other Conservative senators were clearly taken aback by Hervieux-Payette's move.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Guilty woman talks at inquest

A woman who so severely neglected and starved her grandson that he wasted away and died portrayed herself in testimony Wednesday at a coroner's inquest in Toronto as the boy's only hope, lest he be shipped off to foster care.

Jeffrey Baldwin died in 2002 at age five, having withered away to the weight of a baby and being unable to lift his own head. His grandmother, Elva Bottineau, kept the boy and one of his sisters in a cold, fetid room, where

they slept among their own waste, the inquest has heard.

The children's parents were barely out of childhood themselves when they had four kids in quick succession, and nearly as swiftly the kids were taken away by children's aid and handed over to the grandparents.

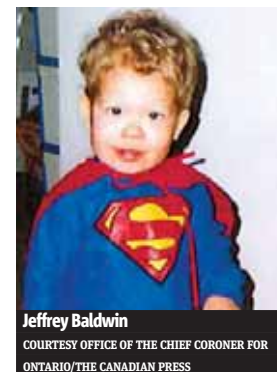
Both Bottineau and her partner, Norman Kidman, who are now serving life sentences for Jeffrey's second-degree murder, had previous convictions for child abuse when they were granted cus-

tody of Jeffrey and three siblings — something the Catholic Children's Aid Society only discovered in its files after the boy's death.

Bottineau was having a hard time with Jeffrey, she said, describing him as having a "slow learning ability."

Bottineau spent much of her testimony disparaging her daughter's parenting skills. She didn't want the kids to go into foster care, she said, so she had to look after them.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Jeffrey Baldwin  
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## Engineer says he was in 'daze'

The Spuyten-Duyvil station in the Bronx reopened Wednesday, three days after a nearby derailment killed four people. The engineer of the speeding Metro-North Railroad commuter train that ran off the rails along a curve experienced a hypnotic-like "daze" and nodded at the controls before he suddenly realized something was wrong and hit the brakes, a lawyer said.

JIM FITZGERALD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# PM speaks on spate of suicides

**Fourth soldier takes his life.** Recent rash of deaths puts national attention on the struggles of soldiers

### Condolences

"The loss of any soldier is devastating to the military community and our condolences go out to his family and friends."

Capt. Denny Brown, Army Public Affairs

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has weighed in on the spate of apparent soldier suicides that have rocked the Canadian Forces in recent days.

Harper says everyone should encourage veterans in need to reach out to the support and systems that are there to help.

The prime minister's comments came hours after the Defence Department confirmed the military police at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier in Quebec are investigating the death Tuesday of Master Cpl. Sylvain Lelievre, from the 3rd battalion of the Royal 22nd Regiment.

Lelievre is the fourth soldier believed to have committed suicide since last week.

Lelievre joined the Canadian Forces in June 1985 and was deployed to Bosnia between 2001 and 2002, and again in 2004. He also served in Kandahar from 2010 to 2011.

"As the death took place on the base, it is now under military police investigation. As such, it is inappropriate for us to comment on the investigation."

The escalating struggle of soldiers has been resonating across the country since word of the suicides began emerging.

The deaths include a senior non-commissioned officer

at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, northwest of Ottawa, as well as two other soldiers in Western Canada.

Veterans advocates say the number of apparent suicides within the military in recent days may only hint at the magnitude of the problem. For every death by suicide, they warn, as many as a dozen others may have unsuccessfully sought the same fate.

Veterans ombudsman Guy Parent said spouses of veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder need to know how to spot the warning signs. He also says greater financial stability is needed for veterans.

A sign of how this is impacting even top-level former military personnel came Tuesday when Liberal Sen. Romeo Dallaire fell asleep at the wheel of his car and crashed into a traffic barrier on Parliament Hill.

The retired general cited the news last week of three Canadian soldiers killing themselves, as well as the coming 20th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide, as reasons he has been unable to sleep, even with medication.

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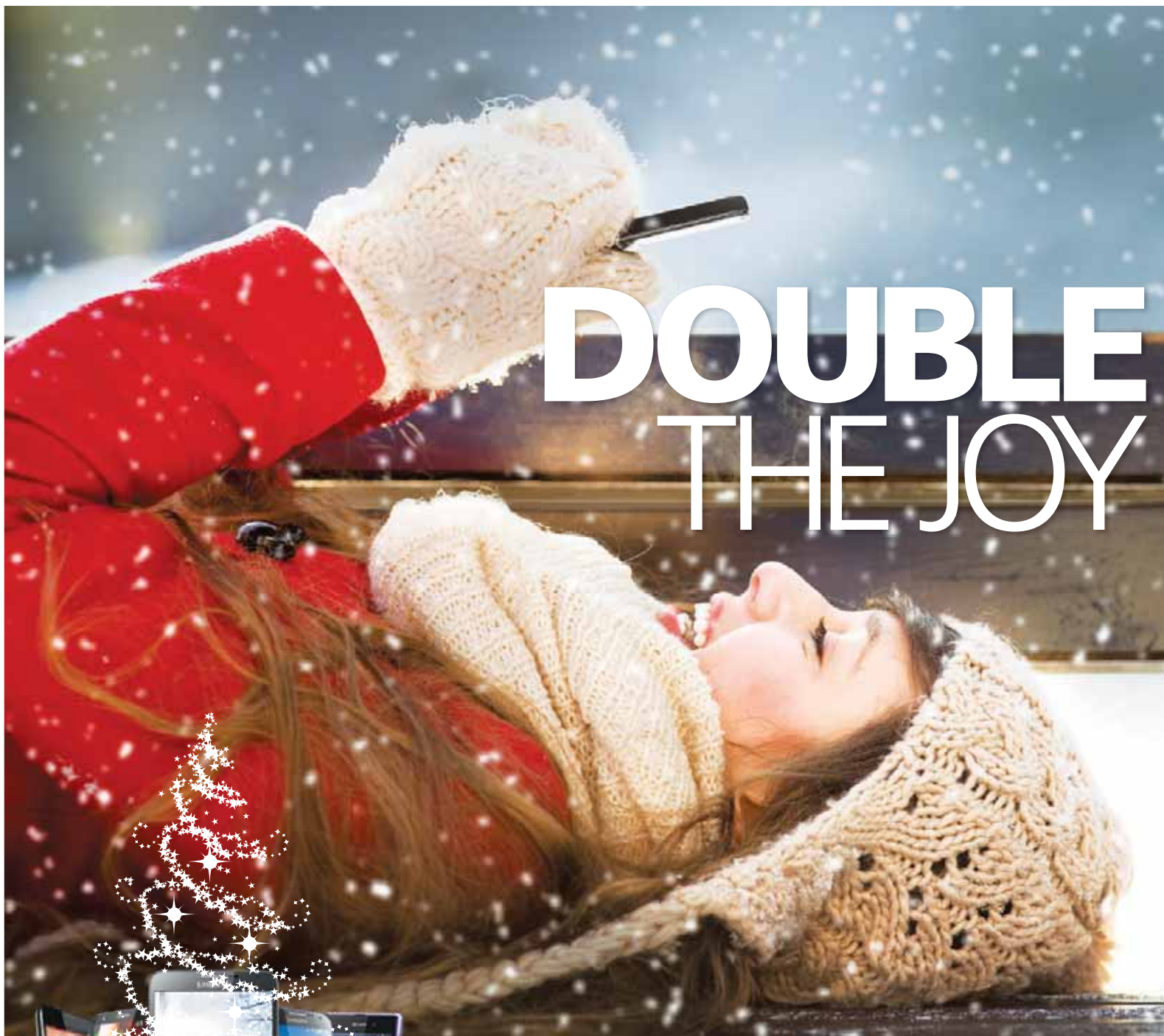
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# Looters, robbers run riot as police strike for more pay

## Cordoba, Argentina.

Hospital authorities reported one shooting death and more than 100 injuries, mostly from shattered glass

A wave of looting and robberies spread across Argentina's second largest city Tuesday night and continued Wednesday.

Opportunists took advantage of a police strike for higher pay which the provincial governor says was triggered by his closure of brothels that provided a money stream to corrupt officers.

The violence in Cordoba began with storefronts being shattered, mobs stealing mer-



A man is detained by police amid spent shell casings outside a supermarket that was being looted in Cordoba, Argentina, Wednesday.  
MARIO SAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

chandise, robbers attacking people in the streets and vigilantes arming themselves to protect their homes. Supermarkets and a mobile television van recording the violence were attacked, even as officers and provincial authorities began negotiations to end the strike.

Gov. Jose Manuel de la Sota said 56 people have been ar-

rested.

He said he's offered police a 52-per cent pay increase, including bonuses for street work or extra duty, for a total of 12,600 pesos a month, which he called "the best salary for police in Argentina," according to Cordoba's Voz del Interior newspaper. That represents about \$2,175 monthly at official exchange rate, or about \$1,440 at the black market rate many Argentines consider as a more reliable measure of their money's value.

De la Sota described the strike as a police response to his decision to close 140 brothels that provide income to corrupt officers.

National Security Chief Sergio Berni said 2,000 border police are being deployed in Cordoba to help restore peace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Johns targeted in French anti-prostitution legislation

Protesters who support abolition of prostitution rally outside the French National Assembly in Paris Wednesday as parliament voted 268-138 to pass a bill that would decriminalize solicitation and impose on clients fines of 1,500 euros (about \$2,175). The bill now goes to the French senate. Prostitution is currently legal in France, but soliciting and pimping are prohibited. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Radioactive material

## Deadly cobalt-60 found abandoned near stolen truck

A missing shipment of radioactive cobalt-60 was found Wednesday near where the stolen truck transporting the material was abandoned in central Mexico state, the country's nuclear safety director said.

The highly radioactive material was found in an empty lot about a kilometre from Hueyapoxla, an agricultural town of about 4,000 people, but it poses no threat or a need for an evacuation, said Juan Eibenschutz.

The cargo truck hauling cobalt-60 that had been used in medical equipment was stolen from a gas station early Tuesday, and authorities had put out an alert in six central states and the capital looking for it.

Eibenschutz said direct exposure to cobalt-60 could result in death within a few minutes.

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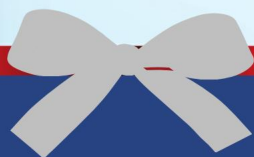


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# 'IT'S AN INSULT': SEALERS

## Made in Newfoundland.

Sealers defend hunt in wake of WTO decision to uphold EU trade ban



JONATHAN RUSSELL

jonathan.russell@metronews.ca

"Here you are trying to manoeuvre through the ice — you got to watch those big ice pans — and a big swell in the water ... the boat was moving back and forth ... you got to watch how you're getting through because they can throw together and put a hole right on through the boat, really — it has happened — and then you're trying to get a shot at the seal at the same time and with this buzzing over you."

Keith Bath, 67, first encountered "this buzzing" of an animal-rights helicopter during last year's seal hunt off the coast of St. Anthony, N.L.

Bath, who now lives in La Scie, N.L., has been sealing for 50 years.

Last year's catch "amounted to close to \$300,000," Bath estimates. Each of his seven crew members receive nine per cent



Seal hunters drag a dead seal to their boat in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in this 2008 photo. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

of the cut. Fuel, his biggest cost, runs around \$20,000. After expenses, the seal hunt represented 40 per cent of his annual income for 2013, he says.

His boat landed some 7,600 seals in two weeks, the majority of which were beater seals, roughly 25 days old. Hunting younger seals, or whitecoats, has been banned since 1987.

In the vast majority of those 7,600 deaths, Bath says he used a .222-, .223-, .22250- or .243-calibre rifle with a scope. Bullets cost just over a dollar each, he says.

"Not many seals are killed

with a hakapik (club) from a longliner (65-footer)," he says of his vessel, which tows a speedboat used by the rest of his crew to collect the seals from the ice. "Good sealers like we are — you know, most everyone — try to make sure that they got a good shot and a head shot ... and if we see that it's crippled, we just give it another bullet."

Bath is one of 4,000 fishermen in Newfoundland and Labrador certified by the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board, which trains sealers in the humane killing of the animals, the regulatory pro-

cess and proper handling procedures.

That certification, coupled with monitoring by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, ensures a humane hunt, according to Frank Pinhorn, executive director of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Pinhorn balked at the World Trade Organization's recent decision to uphold the European Union ban on Canadian seal products based on the necessity "to protect public morals."

"The decision, based on ethics and morality, is an insult to all our sealers," Pinhorn says, adding the reason sealers are targeted by animal-rights groups is "because it's an easy thing to do. They just lucked into the imagery of red, intense blood on pure, white ice."

"They'll lie, they'll cheat, they'll use deceit — because the people making these decisions (at WTO and EU) know absolutely nothing about what it



Keith Bath

means to live in Mary's Harbour, or St. Anthony, or Twillingate, and earn a living from the ocean."

Beyond that, the regulations are heavily enforced, he says. All boats are subject to inspection. Bath says in 2012 one such DFO officer observed his practices.

"I try everything in the world to make sure that it's done as clean as we can do it," Bath says.

"You can make a mistake, anyone can make a mistake. But 90 per cent, I'd say, of (those who) goes out there try to do it as good as they can, have as clean a go as possible."

## Protecting 'public morals'

## WTO ruling a finding of fact

The World Trade Organization decision last week to uphold the European ban on Canadian seal products as "necessary to protect public morals" marked a breakthrough in animal-welfare cases, according to a professor of international law.

Robert Howse, who teaches at New York University, says this is because the WTO panel based its decision on factual

findings versus legal findings. They differ in one key respect: A legal finding can be appealed to the appellate body — a factual finding cannot.

"What Canada did claim was that concern about the seal hunt was, on the facts, not a matter of public morality, but the emotional, eccentric opinions of one section of the European public," Howse said.

"(But) the EU presented evidence that is compelling: That you can't have a humane seal hunt in Canada, and the rea-

son you can't is that the conditions under which the hunt occurs are such that it's really not possible to ensure and monitor that humane hunting techniques are being used.

"In other situations of animal welfare (such as slaughterhouses), it would usually be possible to address moral concerns without a ban, by merely requiring that standards of humane treatment be monitored and enforced."

The WTO also ruled, however, the ban does not apply

to Inuit or indigenous communities, "because an advantage granted by the European Union to seal products originating in Greenland (specifically, its Inuit population) is not accorded immediately and unconditionally to the like products originating in Canada."

The Canadian government said it would appeal the ban. "Of course the Canadian government is going to appeal," says Howse, "but the fact is that they're not going to win anything of value."

## Quoted



"It's the perfect bourgeois cause, because for the people who (oppose it), in Europe or downtown Toronto, it doesn't affect their own lives at all, not even in the slightest. If they were to get excited about global warming or something, they might have to question how they impact on the environment. But they don't have to do that with the seal hunt; they can blame it all on those nasty Newfoundlanders ... And it has great visuals."

Lars Osberg, professor of economics at Dalhousie University, on how the EU seal ban will affect a small part of the population significantly while hardly putting a dent in the region's economy



# EU ban a win for animal rights groups

Sheryl Fink has observed the seal hunt for 11 years, both in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off the eastern coast of Newfoundland, known as the Front.

She says she went to observe “the cruelty, the inhumane killings.”

“It’s allowable to hook a seal in the face,” said Fink, seal campaign director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). “An animal is allowed to be hooked in the face by the gaffe and dragged to the boat.”

The decision last week by the panel of the World Trade Organization was a victory for IFAW and other animal-rights groups.

The 27-member state European Union is now part of 34 countries that ban Canadian seal products, including the U.S. (1972), Russia (2011) and most recently Taiwan (2013).

IFAW and other non-governmental organizations like the International Humane Society submitted an Amicus Brief with their own research and findings referred to by the European Commission in its defence of the seal ban. IFAW was also consulted by the EU as a stakeholder alongside the sealing industry to develop and implement the regulations of the EU ban on seal products, which came into force Aug. 20, 2010.

“This is significant in that it’s just another international body that’s looked at the seal hunt ... and they said seal bans are OK,” Fink said of the WTO’s ruling, adding it’s another indica-



Sheryl Fink CONTRIBUTED

tion the world does not want seal products.

Haven’t organizations like the IFAW created a negative view of seal products?

“It’s very easy to blame the NGOs and say that we’ve brainwashed everyone — and I only wish we were that powerful, that we’ve brainwashed the WTO, and the Russian Federation, and Taiwan. I kind of wish that were true,” she said, laughing.

“I think the reality is people just don’t want seal products; this just isn’t a product that is wanted or needed in the 21st century, just like we don’t do commercial whaling anymore. I think the time has come where commercial sealing is going to be disappearing.”

## Check online

Read more about the seal hunt at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

## In numbers

**2.8M**

According to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, roughly 89,000 seals were landed in Newfoundland and Labrador alone for a total value of \$2.8 million.

**\$590M**

The provincial fishery’s total catch was nearly \$590 million, according to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

**\$1.8M**

The International Fund for Animal Welfare spent \$1.8 million on its seal campaign in 2012. The IFAW raised \$2.4 million total that year, but noted it does non-restrictive fundraising, which means donors gave the money to the IFAW and the organization allocated the funds specifically toward the seal campaign.

A harp seal.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

**DAOUST**

Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust is a professor of Anatomic Pathology and Wildlife Pathology at the University of Prince Edward Island.

“From an animal welfare perspective, these animals (should) be killed as quickly as possible — realizing that it is a hunt and therefore it’s not necessarily successful 100 per cent of the time, just like the slaughtering of domestic animals in slaughterhouses is not effective 100 per cent of the time,” said Daoust. “We insisted at the WTO hearing we go back to the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) report and see what they said, and there is no evidence there that the seal hunt is any worse than other forms of the exploitation of animals. The problem is because of the nature of the hunt — because of the nature of any hunt — it’s very difficult to have robust, statistically valid observation of the whole hunt, which takes into account the weather, the types of boats, the education of individual sealers and coming up with a figure that says, X per cent of the animals are not killed properly.”

**DEBATE**

Like issues of economic viability and morality, the science around the Canadian seal hunt is divided. Metro interviewed experts in veterinary medicine and animal welfare about the key issue surrounding the hunt: Are seals killed in a humane manner? Both testified at the WTO hearings:

**BROOM**

Dr. Donald Broom is a professor of Animal Welfare at the Department of Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge University, whose research includes assessing animal welfare, including pain. “I have seen that some statements by animal protection societies over-emphasize the negative aspects of sealing and some statements by sealers over-emphasize the quality of their methods,” said Broom. “Seals are complex animals with a pain system similar to ours, so an injury for some minutes or hours is a major welfare problem in seals. Almost all farm animals in slaughterhouses are handled without fear being caused to them. The stunning procedure in a slaughterhouse usually causes no pain and the animal dies without recovering consciousness. It is rare for the electrical procedure or captive-bolt gun application not to work, but if it does, a second stun occurs within a few seconds. I think that it is correct that many seals shot with a rifle die without suffering. However, the number that are not killed, or rendered unconscious with the initial shot or shots, and hence which do suffer, is high.”

## 1800s

The commercial seal hunt’s main purpose is to extract oil, large quantities of which are shipped to Britain for fuel for lamps, as a lubricant, as cooking oil, in processing leather and jute, and as a constituent in soap.

## 1914

The crew of the hunting vessel Newfoundland is caught on the ice for two days in a snowstorm. Seventy-eight men freeze to death on the ice, while 55 survivors lose limbs.

## 1980s

In 1983, the European Economic Community bans the importation of whitecoats (unweaned harps) and bluebacks (young hooded). In 1987, the federal government prohibits the commercial harvest of whitecoats and bluebacks, and hunting from large vessels.

## 2009 - Present

In 2009, the European Union bans the import of Canadian seal products. In 2011, the Russian Federation bans the import of seal products. In 2013, Taiwan follows suit.

SOURCE: DFO

## Regulating the hunt

Department of Fisheries and Oceans says officers are looking most closely at the ‘3-step process’ recommended by the Independent Veterinarians Working Group (IVWG).

- The amendment involves: a) striking (with approved firearm or hakapik), b) checking (that both halves of the cranium are crushed), and c) bleeding (before waiting a minute to skin the animal).
- DFO says the seal hunt can be properly regulated because the seals — and therefore the sealers — are often concentrated in the same areas: in the Gulf around the Magdalen Islands and in the Front east of the northern peninsula.
- DFO monitoring is done by fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, boat and deployment of officers to each sealing vessel.



## England. Care for a tent and a spot of tea after getting blotto at the pub?

With the festive season approaching, the scourge of drunk drivers returns. But one pub in Worcestershire, central England, has an innovative solution: installing a campsite in the garden for those too intoxicated to drive home. The Drum and Monkey's Paul Miller took our questions.



The Drum and Monkey. CONTRIBUTED

lice have told us it's a fantastic idea.

### How did you come up with this?

We heard about a pub in the area that had apartments for customers to use if they needed. There was nothing like that here so we contacted a tent company and they were happy to sponsor the idea.

### Did you have a problem with unruly drunks refusing to leave?

It's not about drunks, more for people who have had just too many drinks to drive, and it's just for December. The po-

### What do your neighbours think?

I don't know, but it can't be a bad thing to have free camping facilities. We have not heard any concerns: This is a country pub and we don't have many kids making trouble.

### What kind of luxury can I expect if I sleep there?

A mug of tea at breakfast. Maybe a sandwich. On New Year's Eve we have organized free transport for anyone who wants it. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

### 'tipsforjesus'

## No good deed goes un-Instagrammed

Employees at two Ann Arbor, Mich., bars have seen some unusually big tips this year.

The Ann Arbor News reports that in September a \$3,000 US tip was left for an \$87.98 US bill and \$7,000 US for a \$200 US bill.

The tips are among a number reported around the country in recent months. They're chronicled on the photo-sharing application Instagram using the "tipsforjesus" name.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Germany

## Two arrested in Bitcoin scheme

German police say they have arrested two people and seized illegally generated bitcoins worth more than 700,000 euros (\$950,000 US) in an investigation of computer fraud.

Police say the perpetrators used the processing power of the hacked computers to generate bitcoins, a cryptography-based digital currency. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

### Market Minute



**DOLLAR**  
93.65¢ (-0.26¢)



**TSX**  
13,304.92 (-14.95)



**OIL**  
\$97.20 US (+\$1.16)



**GOLD**  
\$1,247.20 US (+\$26.40)

**Natural gas:** \$3.96 US (-2¢)  
**Dow Jones:** 15,889.77 (-24.85)



Companies are starting to take note of consumer concerns over potentially harmful ingredients in a range of beauty products. JENNIFER POLIXENI BRANKIN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

# Beauty industry doing an about-face

**Power of the people.** Companies are starting to remove possibly harmful ingredients from products after pressure from customers

An environmental group says cosmetics companies are starting to listen to consumer worries over potentially harmful ingredients in their products.

Toronto-based Environmental Defence says public pressure is beginning to exert influence on the ingredients companies use in everything from shampoo and moisturizers to toothpaste and deodorant.

"The good news is that some companies are listening to the growing concerns from

their customers about the risks of these chemicals," Maggie MacDonald of Environmental Defence said in a release.

"Others need to take the old saying to heart — the customer is always right — and act to remove harmful chemicals."

Procter and Gamble announced in September that it would eliminate triclosan, a commonly used anti-bacterial agent, and phthalates from its personal-care products in 2014.

Johnson and Johnson committed in 2012 to remove triclosan, phthalates, formaldehydes and parabens from its adult toiletries and cosmetics.

Walmart, meanwhile, announced this fall that it would be working toward reducing chemicals starting in January, and promises a public report in two years on how it has fared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Concerns

- **Triclosan**, an anti-bacterial agent, was found by a Health Canada study to be harmful to the environment, but safe for humans. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is currently reviewing the safety of triclosan. Concerns have been raised that triclosan may be triggering hormonal changes, or causing anti-microbial resistance.
- **Phthalates**, a family of chemicals commonly used as plasticizers, raised worried after studies suggested that when ingested, phthalates could cause reproductive and developmental abnormalities in young children.

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# FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY 'SHOPPING'

I've always believed in Santa Claus, because the speed at which he delivers gifts is no faster than the speed at which I buy them.

I shop at a speed that renders me blurry to onlookers.

If there were commandos descending into a mall via zip lines and they saw me entering the store, the first words they would say when their boots touched the ground would be, "Hey, where'd he go?"

Christmas shopping is a necessary Eve-ill, but I treat the mall like it's radioactive and I've left my radiation suit at home. Think of Superman cleaning up his apartment after Lois unexpectedly rings the doorbell — scrubbing his Supershower and hiding his Superporn in a blue-red blur of anxiety.

If you find yourself spending untold minutes at the mall, here are a few pointers I follow to make sure my strategic incursion into the commercial side of the holidays isn't much longer than a holiday commercial.

1) The first step to make Christmas shopping fly by is to



**HE SAYS**  
**John Mazerolle**  
metronews.ca

have a plan. If I write "Buy my brother a Blu-ray he already owns" or "Break a nice ornament for Mom before I leave the parking lot," it makes it that much more efficient when it happens.

It also helps if you make a point of setting aside 4:45 to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, so that you're not panicking when shopping time arrives.

2) Make room for yourself. Depending on the mood at the mall, being jammed into a sea of zombie-like shoppers can be as terrifying as Night of the Living Dead or as tedious as The Walking Dead. And thanks to terrorism in recent decades, it's no longer appropriate to yell "Bomb!" in a crowded

area.

Instead, start your day off with a hearty breakfast of garlic bulbs, baked beans and whole onions and watch those shoppers disperse like they're pepper and you're a bar of soap.

Not willing to wait in a long line? In New Brunswick,

Saskatchewan or other rural areas, a seasonal cry of "That store wrote 'Xmas' on their sign! Why do they hate the baby Jesus?" is usually enough for the line to leave in a mob (careful of the torches and pitchforks).

In Toronto, Vancouver or other metropolitan areas, try "My word, is that a Discount Divorce, Yoga and Kale Salon?" Watch for latte splashback as they depart.

3) Don't forget that the gifts you choose can help speed up the process. For instance, if your kids aren't worth it, just buy batteries that will help power the toys bought by other relatives.

Or, if you believe in the true spirit of Christmas, why not take the money you would have spent on gifts and spend it on the world's many charities? What child wouldn't be touched to hear that you skipped out on the PlayStation so you could put \$500 in the Salvation Army pot? What spouse could argue about vacations when you've spent all the Christmas savings on refugees?

Your whole family will be moved to tears, I guarantee.

This also might be another good time to put the Superman/Santa speed to good use.

You'll believe a man can fly.

## ZOOM

# Renovation turns things around



STUART C. WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

## House is flipped topsy-turvy

A British artist has given the figure of speech "to turn a place upside down" a literal side by making a building topsy-turvy. Alex Chinneck, from London, England, has created an upside-down façade to a derelict building in the centre of the city. The site where the artwork stands dates from 1780 and had been slated for demolition. **METRO**

## Artist's bizarre world

"I enjoy tapping into people's love for the simple pleasures in life, like magic and illusion. There is more to life than survival — there is culture that is uplifting and pleasurable."

Alex Chinneck, artist



Chinneck's previous work was a brick façade in Margate, England, that "melted" off the side of a house. COURTESY STEPHEN O'FLAHERTY

## Clickbait



**LUKE SIMCOE**  
Metro Online

If you think Instagram is just a den of food snapshots and "narcissistic" selfies, you're doing it wrong. Here are some users to follow for a glimpse of the photo-sharing site's creative side.



COURTESY @PAYPHONES

## @rachelryle:

The recent introduction of video has allowed Rachel Ryle to bring her brand of stop-motion animation to Instagram. Be careful, Ryle's quirky, simple videos can be addictive.

## @payphones:

Dan Marker-Moore's account documents the dying days of the public payphone. The concept is simple, but

the portraits are carefully composed and possessed of more pathos than you might expect.

## @andrewknapp:

If you ever wished Waldo, of Where's Waldo fame, was a dog, then Andrew Knapp's account is for you. Knapp takes pictures of his border collie Momo hiding in the wilds of northern Ontario. How quickly can you spot him? (Hint: Look for the red bandana.)

## Comments

**RE: Woman Fights Ticket For Driving With Google Glass, published Dec. 3**

'Suspicion' of speeding? And after the car was stopped? Are all police, dolts? Sounds to me more like the cop didn't actually have a reason to pull her over in the first place. Having a means of distraction nearby does not mean she was distracted. **jeff200 posted to metronews.ca**

How about 'suspicion of being stupid'? Why are drivers going out of their way to find new ways of being distracted?

**CCToronto posted to metronews.ca**

How about ... the report is probably incorrect in stating 'suspicion of speeding'? She was likely caught for speeding; period. Police won't write a ticket for 'suspicion of speeding' lol! Preposterous.

**Koree Em posted to metronews.ca**

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)



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# 2 SCENE

## Reluctantly carving out a calling

**Local art scene.** Well-known folk artist Barry Colpitts talks about how he got his start and how he was (kind of) forced into selling his work



**BACKSTAGE PASS**  
Jenna Conter  
halifax@metronews.ca

Did your parents ever make you pose for a family photo? You know — a fun afternoon of awkward head-tilting, smiling and getting into a fight over where the folk art sheep would sit in relation to the folk art penguin?

No? Well, in the “awkward family photo” world of the Conter family, proper placement of inanimate family members ranked eerily close to where I appear in the picture.

Regardless of my losing battle for attention against brightly painted lobsters or wall decal fish, I love folk art. There. I said it.

I guess it's not dissimilar to how people find themselves attracted to canvas paintings, antique teacups, or dinky cars.

You can't help what you're drawn to.

But to buy it is one thing. Creating it is quite another.

Local folk artist Barry Colpitts seemingly fell into the craft.



Barry Colpitts at his display gallery in Tangier. CONTRIBUTED

While working for years as a guard at the prison in Sackville, Colpitts was looking for something to keep his mind

and hands busy.

Woodcarving just seemed to make sense.

“I started making mer-

maids — this would have been 1989,” he said.

“I was younger so a pretty woman that was half a fish

seemed like a good idea.”

A closeted artist at first, it wasn't until the early 1990s that Colpitts began placing his pieces outside his Tangier house for passersby to see. Though many fans had offered to purchase Colpitts' hobby pieces, it wasn't until a memorably persistent folk-art fan bullied Colpitts into it that he sold his first one.

“I continued to say no, until one guy just kept coming back, and to make him stop, I had to sell it,” said Colpitts.

“So that made me think maybe I could make money off this and I started doing it for a living.”

Now one of the more recognized folk artists in our region, Colpitts' work can be found on display at Argyle Fine Art through to the end of the year.

He also has a host of buildings on his family's 45-acre woods including a display gallery and a carving and storage shed.

Take a drive along Highway 7 in Tangier, and it's pretty hard to miss the houses that folk art built.

### What you need to know

#### Details of the show

- **Who?** Barry Colpitts
- **Where?** Argyle Fine Art, 1559 Barrington Street
- **When?** Ongoing

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# New Girl creator shares her voice with Metro

**Staying funny.** Liz Meriwether has a lot to juggle in her job — but awards don't lie, she's doing great

ALEX  
KHATCHADOURIAN  
Metro World News in New York

Even with three seasons, five Emmy nominations and millions of viewers tuning in to New Girl every Tuesday, show producer/writer Liz Meriwether says her job hasn't gotten any easier. In fact, if anything, it's only gotten more challenging.

Besides performing the difficult and never-ending dance of keeping hundreds of people happy — co-showrunners and writers, the studio, the network — Meriwether also works tirelessly to make sure the voice of New Girl remains her own.

**Can you tell us about the episode where Coach and Cece go on a date? How did you decide to go in that direction with those characters?**

Well, this is something that obviously causes a fair amount of stress for Schmidt. We thought it was sort of interesting to have this new character come in and not really understand the back story between her and Schmidt, just swoop in and take her out on a date. But, I'm not sure if the Cece-Coach relationship is going to go forward; it might have just been this one date. I think that Cece just wants to get back out there and go out on a date with a really hot guy. I think that's what's going on in her head. It was really fun to shoot them together — they have a really great chemistry. Plus they are both just gorgeous, you know, it's fun to just watch them onscreen.

**How long will Damon Wayans Jr. be on the series?**

Damon is with us for the rest of the year, which is really exciting. We are so happy to have him back. He just fits in perfectly.

**So we know Damon is signed on till the end of the year, but more importantly, what about Ferguson [the cat]?**

Well it's funny, because in the next episode there is this date between Cece and Ferguson and it goes really well. I'm kidding, I don't know; I don't have an ending for Ferguson right now. He is the cutest thing. We all kind of fell in love with him and we actually have to hold ourselves back from writing

him into so many episodes because we don't want any Ferguson fatigue. I love Winston's relationship with him. There is sort of an important plot development where Winston realizes he needs to take a step back from Ferguson because their relationship maybe has gotten a little too intense.

**Well the storyline says he goes missing.**

Yeah, he goes missing and that kind of leaves Winston to blame and makes him take a step back from Ferguson. Nick thinks that Winston has taken himself out of the game with women because he's gotten too into the cat. Nick just wants to help him.

**With Jess and Nick it seems like you have written it so they don't go that typical TV relationship path. Can you talk about how it is to write their parts now, in a relationship, as opposed to before when they weren't together?**

As someone who doesn't have a lot of experience with happy relationships, it's sort of interesting for me to write them. We didn't want to have them breaking up every five minutes. We really wanted to invest in their relationship and see what would actually happen between them. It's definitely changed the DNA of the show a little, but I think it's important for a show to keep changing and growing and evolving so that it feels real and what would really happen to these people.

**You guys are going to have a Super Bowl episode. Have you thought about any storylines yet?**

I'm definitely a little nervous about it because it's such a big audience, but in a good way. The story is going to be mostly about Ferguson. [laughs] Just kidding. We really want to create an episode that was group-centered and where everyone can be together. The group gets invited to a big fancy party and it's sort of all of them at this party together ... and I sort of can't say more than that.

**Quoted**

**"We all kind of fell in love with him and we actually have to hold ourselves back from writing him into so many episodes"**

Liz Meriwether on Ferguson the cat in New Girl



The cast of the New Girl is always up for laughs. CONTRIBUTED

## Actor to writer

Liz Meriwether is a great writer, but did she ever dream of being an actor?

- "In college I did a lot of acting, and started writing in the midst of that, just because I saw writing as an extension of acting and

creating stories for characters. I think my experience really informs how I write. I try to think about the actors and what their strengths are and then write to those strengths. I think there are a lot of jokes that are dependent on the performance."

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# Affleck Out of the Furnace and back into the limelight

**Acting break.** Gone Baby Gone star took time out to make I'm Still Here with Joaquin Phoenix and has no regrets

This year marked Casey Affleck's return to the big screen after the Oscar-nominated star took a break from acting for a while. In recent months, his Sundance Film Festival hit Ain't Them Bodies Saints had a slow rollout in select theatres internationally, and this Friday he can be seen in North American cinemas as a struggling Iraq war vet in *Out of the Furnace*.

The projects come three years after Affleck released his directorial effort, the controversial mockumentary *I'm Still Here*, in which a dishevelled Joaquin Phoenix pretended he was quitting his Oscar-nominated acting career to become a hip-hop artist.

The film was maligned for duping audiences into thinking it was real, and Affleck admits "it was risky in its style" and also a risk for his own acting career as it "sucked up a good deal" of his time and kept him from doing onscreen projects.

"You take a break in Hollywood, you don't act in something for a couple of years, people just forget about you."

That's a lifetime in Hollywood almost, so it's hard to bounce back from that," said the 38-year-old, who got an Oscar nomination for his supporting role in 2007's *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*. That's not to say he regrets making *I'm Still Here*.

"I mean, regret seems pointless," Affleck said in a recent telephone interview. "It's not a useful emotion really, although it's always there sort of lingering around. If you're willing to go sit on the stoop with regret, it'll hang out with you, but it's a waste of time."

"So it didn't perform that

well, but neither did Jesse James, and I love that movie. So often movies don't perform well," he added. "Life goes on, you know. I feel pretty blessed to just be doing this."

"And look at me now, you know, I get to work with Christian Bale, Scott Cooper and Forest Whitaker and Woody Harrelson and on and on and on. What could be better?"

Affleck was referring to the all-star team behind the gritty drama *Out of the Furnace*, which is directed by Cooper, who helmed and co-wrote the 2009 Oscar-winning film *Crazy Heart*. Cooper also co-wrote the "Out of the Furnace" script with Brad Ingelsby. Producers include Leonardo DiCaprio and Ridley Scott.

Bale stars as Russell Baze, a hard-working steel mill employee in poverty-stricken Braddock, Penn., during the 2008 economic downturn.

Affleck deftly plays his troubled younger brother, Rodney, an Iraq war vet who can't

find work when he returns home from duty. Indebted to shady characters, he turns to gambling and underground fighting to make a quick buck, forcing his brother to look out for his wellbeing.

Harrelson brings chills as Harlan DeGroat, vicious leader of a backwoods crime ring in the New Jersey Ramapo Mountains. Whitaker plays a cop. Other cast members include Willem Dafoe as a bookie, Zoe Saldana as Russell's girlfriend and Sam Shepard as the brothers' uncle.

Affleck said he did research into post-traumatic stress disorder, which afflicts his character. He also watched documentaries and spoke with war vets.

He also trained to get in the right physical shape for his fighting matches. Affleck will be seen onscreen again in the new year, when Christopher Nolan's star-packed sci-fi drama *Interstellar* hits theatres. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Casey Affleck in a scene from *Out of the Furnace*. AP PHOTO/RELATIVITY MEDIA



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# Walker was finding his step as a father

**Final interview.** While promoting new film *Hours*, actor talked candidly about his own experiences with fatherhood

Before his death, *Fast & Furious* star Paul Walker was drawing parallels between his real-life role as dad to 15-year-old daughter Meadow and his part as an unexpected father to a newborn baby in the upcoming Hurricane Katrina drama *Hours*.

"I think it definitely helps to have a daughter, but I think if you're a human being and you have love in your heart, you're going to find connective fibers in this," Walker said in a Nov. 14 interview to promote the film. "There's definitely a purity and a truth to it."

*Hours* stars Walker and Genesis Rodriguez as a couple



In his last film, *Hours*, Paul Walker plays an expectant father.  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

who rush to a New Orleans hospital after Rodriguez's character goes into early labour. When the hurricane hits the city, Walker's character finds himself stranded in an evacuated hospital with his ailing newborn daughter. "My baby wasn't planned," Walker said. "I wasn't married, out of wedlock,

the whole bit. (I was) finding my step with it. I'm still finding my step. I think you always are. I'm five times the father that I was five years ago. Your head's more in it. Your heart's more in it. You can't force it. You want to be better at it, just something hasn't clicked yet."

Walker starred in all but one



Paul Walker's final film is *Hours*, where he plays a father caught in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. CONTRIBUTED

## Autopsy report

*Fast & Furious* star Paul Walker was killed by impact and fire in a crash that occurred while he was a passenger in a Porsche driven by his friend, according to an autopsy released Wednesday. Results of toxicology testing will take another six to eight weeks.

of the six *Fast & Furious* blockbusters. He had been on break from shooting the latest installment at the time of his death on Saturday; Universal Pictures has shut down production of *Fast & Furious 7* indefinitely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

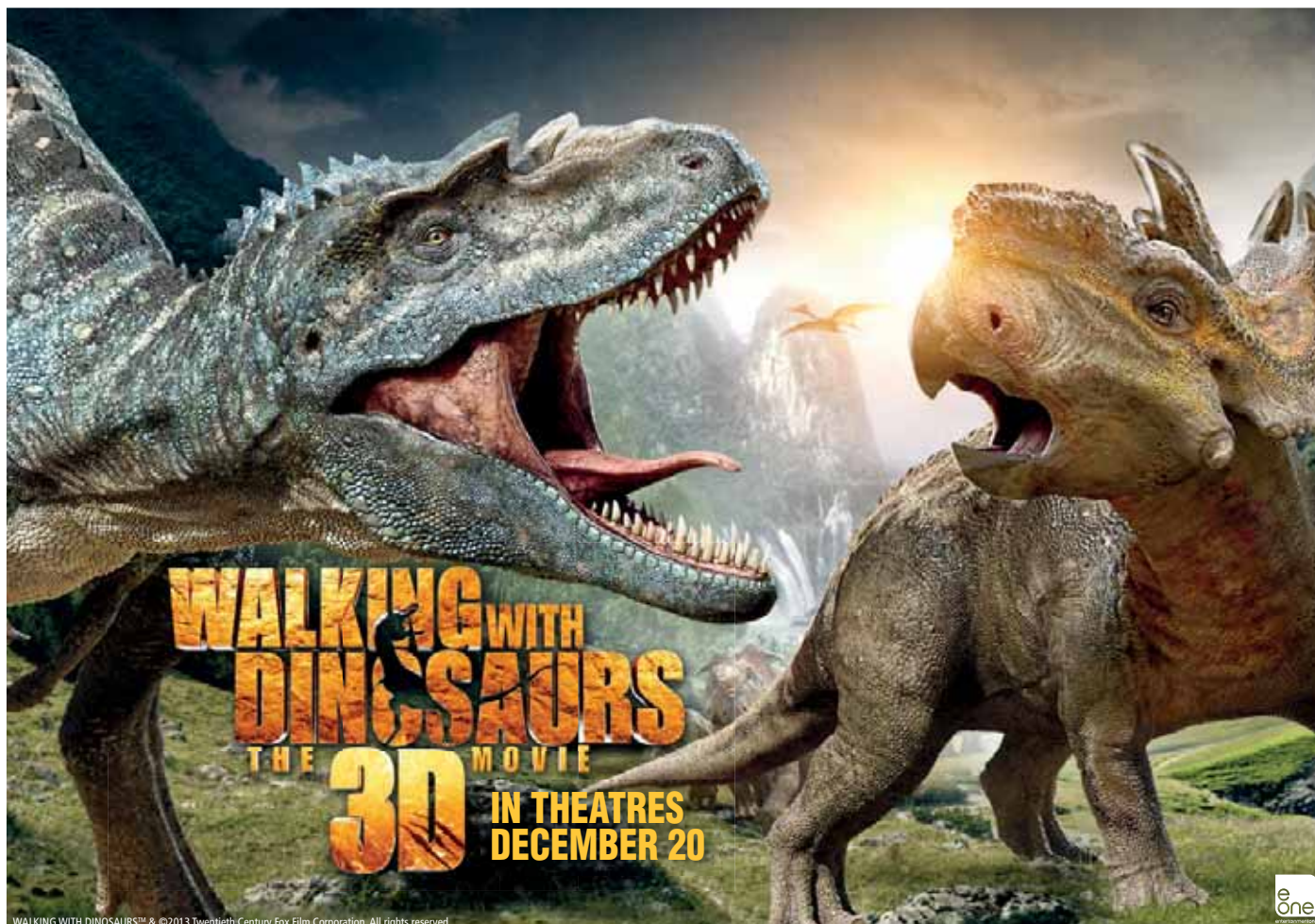
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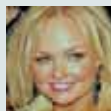
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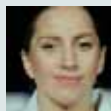


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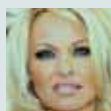
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I love tea. No more coffee for me.



Lindsay Lohan

## Lindsay content for now to play with her boy toys

Lindsay Lohan reportedly turned heads at a New York nightclub recently when she cozied up to Michael Neeson, the 18-year-old son of actor Liam Neeson, according to Page Six. "Lindsay was seen leading him into the women's bathroom, hand-in-hand," a source says. "Lindsay seems

to have a thing for younger men at the moment." Lohan has also been linked in recent months to 19-year-old model Liam Dean, who apparently got to witness the whole thing. "The odd thing was that Dean was with them all night, even though Lindsay had been seeing him, too." Neeson's publicist denied the story.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

## The Word



## Beyoncé and Jay-Z plant their feet for diet challenge

Jay-Z and Beyoncé are officially going vegan until Christmas, the rapper announced on his Life and Times blog. "Psychologists have said it takes 21 days to make or break a habit. On

the 22nd day, you've found the way," he wrote. "One day before my 44th birthday, I will embark on a 22 Days challenge to go completely vegan, or as I prefer to call it, plant-based." He also confirmed that Beyoncé "is also joining me" on his "spiritual and physical cleanse" of sorts. "I don't know what happens after Christmas," he admitted. "A semi-vegan, a full plant-based diet? Or just a spiritual and physical challenge? We'll see."



Chris Hemsworth

## There's a reason that Thor kiss was so passionate

If the lip-lock between Chris Hemsworth and Natalie Portman at the very end of Thor: The Dark World seems awfully intense, that's because it wasn't actually Portman. The Oscar-winning actress tells the New York Daily News that Hemsworth's wife, Elsa Pataky, donned

a wig and filled in for Portman for the scene. "It was for re-shoots, and he was working in Hong Kong and I couldn't get there because I was working on my own film," Portman explains. "And so they put his wife in my wig and costume. That's why it was so passionate."



Tom Daley ALL IMAGES GETTY

## Daley's boyfriend isn't just anyone, you know

British Olympic diver Tom Daley announced this week that he has been dating a man for most of this year, but it turns out it isn't just any man. Daley is reportedly

dating Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, according to E! News. The pair was spotted grabbing coffee together in L.A. in October. Black, who won his Academy Award for his script for Milk, is set to direct his next film, The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight, next spring in London, coincidentally.

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# Entrepreneur and a gentleman

## Paul Smith speaks.

The avuncular 67-year-old combines the eager to please affability of a local shopkeeper with the corporate know-how of a global empire proprietor

RICHARD PECKETT

Metro World News

Paul Smith is flitting between an official photographer and a gaggle of student iPhone snaparazzi at a new exhibition, Hello, My Name Is Paul Smith, at the Design Museum in London.

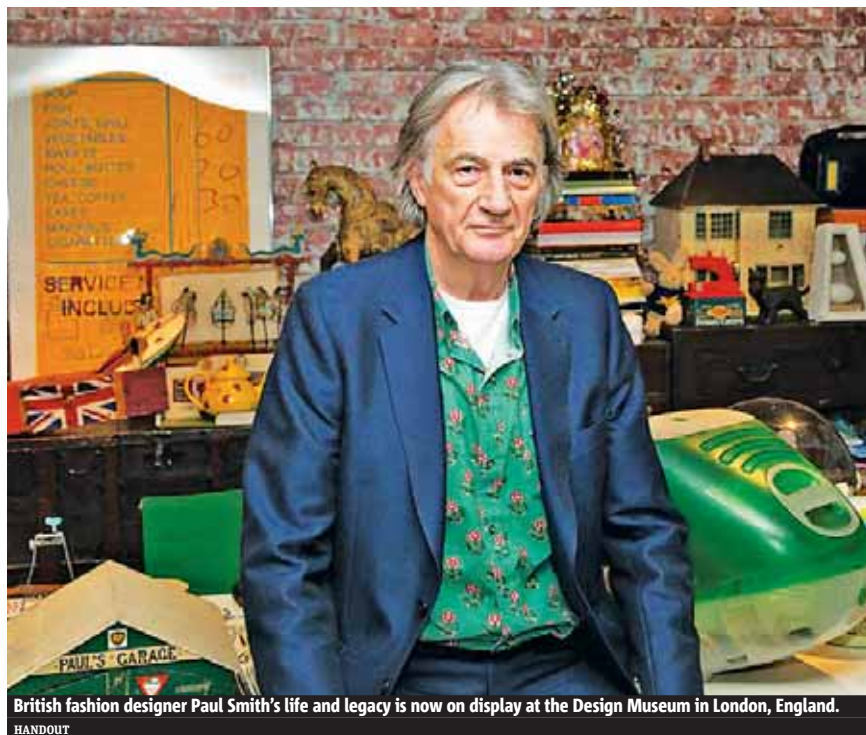
Sir Paul — a title he almost declined — excels at being a man of the people (politicians, take heed). While I'm waiting for my interview, groupies swarm to a gracious welcome — gosh, even toddlers get a hug.

The designer eschews the pretension of high fashion for humanism, a style that's clear in the exhibition's homely curation: fine art pieces flank knick-knacks from fans. Just don't call it a retrospective: "I've got enough stuff for four or five separate exhibitions," he admits.

**When was the last time you wore something that wasn't designed by you?**

[Laughs] 18. Although, if I'm on holiday and it's suddenly cold and I haven't got a sweater, I might buy a classic cashmere or something.

**Do you feel guilty wearing other designers?**



British fashion designer Paul Smith's life and legacy is now on display at the Design Museum in London, England.

### Closet caper

**"I just like my stuff. I steal it from downstairs; I nick it from the shops."**

Paul Smith

No, I just like my stuff. I steal it from downstairs; I nick it from the shops.

**They're trying to find the samples...**

... And I'm the one who has got them all.

**You mentioned before that there is a level of pretentiousness and rudeness within the industry. You'd**

**expect young people to put in the hard graft and work their way up. How do you feel about unpaid internships?**

We've never encouraged unpaid internships. We get three, four, five requests a week for work placements. The best we can do these days is say, "Why don't you come for an afternoon or day?"

**So you don't let people do weeks at a time?**

No, no.

**How do you feel about other designers doing that kind of thing?**

Well, I think there is a history of it that goes back 20

or 30 years. When people are starting out, it's supposed to be an honour to work but I'm not really sure about that.

**Did you ever want to be famous?**

No. In this environment here, you expect people to know who you are, but when I walk down the street luckily I'm not a famous face, so thank goodness for that.

**I noticed when I walked into the exhibition that your first shop was tiny. It's like a changing room.**

I know. It was meant to be a shop! There was a curtain at the top of some stairs to

a tiny changing room. The point of that exhibit is to show that you can start in a way that is considered very humble and then you can grow...

**You're not keen on email and computers in general. Do you think that being immersed in technology kills the creative side?**

Personally, I'm not into it but I understand it. If you walk outside my room in Covent Garden there are four young ladies that help me: the PA and secretaries get about 600 emails a day, so I'm very IT savvy, as is the whole company. Personally I find that the use of my own eyes, my photography, my notes, works for me — but each to their own. It's about balance.

**You said before of the runway, "It's £500,000 on 14 minutes." Does it seem a bit ridiculous?**

Absolutely. Unfortunately, it's very much part of the process. A lot of the younger designers — and this is another reason for making this exhibition so down to earth — think that's what it's about: a fashion show and about twenty shops or whatever. Actually, it's only a tiny part of the process. Even if you have the best fashion show in the world but you don't make the clothes beautifully at the correct price and deliver on time and get paid, then it's all a bit of a waste of time.

**Would you prefer to do a small salon show?**

I would love to do a small salon show again. I used to: my first showroom was in a bedroom and my first show was in my friend's apartment in Paris.

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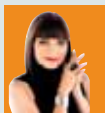


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Trends Report

Taking a great photo may be a challenge for some of you, but one New York-based photographer claims he has discovered a way to make virtually anybody photogenic. Go online to Trends Report to watch a tutorial and learn what a "squinch" is and try it out.



Here are my attempts, from fail to perfection. What do you think?

Follow Irene on Twitter @MetrolreneK or on Instagram: kuanirene

metronews.ca/voices/trends-report



# Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Name: Sophie

Age: 41

Occupation: TV production manager

What she's wearing

Jacket from Zara, denim vest from H&M, sweater from Gap, bag from Red Flag Design (local), scarf is gifted, jeans from Topshop, sunglasses from Arc Clothing, boots from Gravity Pope.

Her inspiration

"My style is casual and on-the-go. I like versatility in my outfit — something I can wear to the office and go on a night out after."

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# Pining for the scent of a holiday tree

Nothing smells better than when a fresh-cut tree arrives in the house for the holiday season. Sadly, the scent quickly disappears, but there are a variety of ways to re-create it. If you're using an artificial tree this year, you'll want to pick up one (or two) home fragrance options. By layering a few of these, you'll transport yourself into a winter forest. I've sniffed and tested many of the options, and here are the winners.



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
home@metronews.ca

## Best fragrance oil

Oils can be dabbed anywhere around the house for a subtle scent. Crabtree & Evelyn Home Fragrance Oil, Windsor Forest scent, \$9, crabtree-evelyn.ca.



## Best reeded diffuser

Place diffusers in open areas like foyers or the corner of the living room. Fruits & Passion Decorative Diffuser Set, Boreal Fir scent, \$28.50, fruits-passion.ca.



## Best candle

The royal family of scented candles, infused with rich oils. Diptyque candle in glass, Pine Bark scent, \$75, Holt Renfrew.

## Best wax melts

Safer than a candle but with all of the warm-wax smell. Glade Wax Melts Warmer, Sparkling Spruce scented Wax Melts, \$3, glade.com.



## Best air spray

Keep a can near the front door and spritz just before guests arrive. Thymes Home Fragrance Mist, Fraser Fir scent, \$18, thymes.com.



## Get the most out of home fragrances

- Layer the scent of fresh-cut trees by using a variety of brands and applications. That will create a realistic fragrance throughout the house.
- Dab fragrance oils in discreet places, such as on felt tree ornaments, inside a bathroom tissue roll or on cotton swabs stored in closets.
- Place a diffuser near an air-intake vent so as to distribute the scent throughout the house.

# Crab and Ricotta Mousse: 'Tis the season for creative appetizer ideas

Looking for a classy appetizer idea to whet your guests' pal-

ates? Try this Crab and Ricotta Mousse, which is equally delicious with shrimp instead of crab. The mousse can also be moulded in a terrine and served sliced.

## Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lime juice
- 1 envelope unflavoured gelatin
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) boiling water
- 2 stalks of celery, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) fresh cilantro leaves
- 1 green onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 tsp (5 ml) lime zest
- 8 oz (225 g) crabmeat, drained, divided
- 1/4-1/2 tsp (1-2 ml) smoked paprika, mild or spicy
- 10 oz (300 g) Quality Cheese Ricotta
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) panko bread crumbs
- Cilantro

1. Pour lime juice into a small bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Let stand 5 minutes to soften, then add 2 tbsp (30 ml) boiling water to dissolve gelatin.

2. Place celery, parsley, cilantro, green onion and lime zest in a food processor. Process until finely chopped.

3. Add half the crabmeat, the paprika and Ricotta. Process until well combined, add gelatin and season with salt and pepper.

4. To mould the mousse, use a muffin pan or individual moulds (ramekins). Line inside of moulds with plastic wrap or parchment paper to make unmoulding easier.



This recipe serves eight to 10 people. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

5. Pour mousse into moulds. Cover loosely and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.

6. To unmould muffin pan,

invert over a baking sheet, remove plastic wrap and place on plates. To unmould ramekins, invert each over plates and remove plastic wrap.

7. Garnish with remaining crab, panko bread crumbs and cilantro. DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA (ALLYOUNEEDISCHEESE.CA/GRANDPRIX)

## For your phone

Great British Chefs Kids Christmas (iPad/iPhone; free)



**MIND THE APP**  
Kris Abel  
@RealKrisAbel  
life@metronews.ca

Show your elves how to share through holiday cooking with these kid-friendly festive recipes curated by British chefs that include gingerbread animals, risotto faces, turkey meatballs and Christmas eclair trees.





# Sights and sounds of Shopping Under the Stars



For nearly two decades, Shopping Under the Stars has been a tradition that combines the sights and sounds of the season with promos and savings. The tradition continues again this year on Friday, December 6, when over 200 retailers in the Spring Garden area will offer discounts, freebies, live demos and more from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. But it's not just the retail therapy that brings people

out for the event – it's also the many spectacles they might see along the city sidewalks of the Spring Garden area.

If you're driving to Shopping Under the Stars, you can park your car for free at Park Lane on either night so you're free to stroll the streets. The first thing you'll likely notice is the twinkling lights along Spring Garden

Road and its surrounding area.

The Spring Garden Business Association has just completed the three-year phase of its lighting program, "Stars on the Street" so you'll literally be shopping under the stars. You might also notice star-shaped lapel pins on the coats of passersby. You can pick one up on the mezzanine at 5670

For the latest information on Shopping Under the Stars, follow @SpringGardenRd on Twitter, check out their Facebook page or visit their website: [Springgardenarea.com](http://Springgardenarea.com).

broadcasted a live radio remote from the tree trimming ceremony on November 15. Hosted by Neville MacKay, the tree trimming featured a no-purchase-necessary ballot for \$1,000 worth of gift certificates from local retailers. If you missed your chance to win then, you can enter the second draw for an additional \$1,000 worth of gift certificates taking place on December 6 via live radio remote broadcast by 101.3 The BOUNCE.

Also on December 6, keep an eye out around the Bank of Montreal

platform on Spring Garden Road for

Spring Garden Rd. to help out a good cause, as proceeds will go to outreach efforts for street-involved individuals in the area.

As you walk down Spring Garden Road, the 10-foot tree outside the Credit Union will likely catch your eye. To kick off Shopping Under the Stars, C100 FM

a musical flash mob. The flash mob is organized by Start with a Smile, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating smiles. You're also likely to catch some carolers strolling through the bustling sidewalks to complete the festive street scene.



## Shopping Under the Stars.ca

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# Great discounts and giveaways

On Friday, December 6, the sidewalks of Spring Garden area will come alive with holiday spirit for Shopping Under the Stars. Now in its 18th year, the event will feature discounts, promos and demos from over 200 retailers. If you love to shop local, you won't want to

miss your chance to support — and get seasonal savings from — all the local retailers participating in Shopping Under the Stars.

If you're strolling down Spring Garden Road in search of local gift ideas, Frame-It items will be tax-free on all regular priced

items excluding books and calendars. It's 100 per cent owned and operated by Atlantic Canadians. Frame-It will also serve complimentary cider and cookies during Shopping Under the Stars.

Further along is a family-owned shop, Jennifer's of Nova Scotia. Featuring items

handcrafted by Atlantic Canadian artisans, Jennifer's will have gift certificate giveaways and hot mulled cider during Shopping Under the Stars.

While you're over on South Park Street at the Trillium, be sure to check out HaliKids. This local boutique

shop specializes in high-end children's toys and apparel, and will feature 15 per cent off all regular-priced merchandise during Shopping Under the Stars. (There will be prizes, too.)

Another great local gift store at the Trillium is P'lovers, which is offering tax-free savings for the event.

When it comes to local fashion, Sweet Pea Boutique on Queen Street and Twisted Muse on Birmingham Street will both be tax-free for Shopping Under the Stars, and are also offering 25 per cent off all sweaters. Over on Clyde Street, Wildflower Clothing will have 25 per cent off everything in the store as well as cider and cookies during the event.

## CELLAR — WINE BAR & GRILL —



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## New Italian offerings and traditional favourites



p.m. The Cellar is back in its original location at 5677 Brenton Place after a three-and-a-half-year hiatus.

The Cellar's mostly-Italian menu features a combination of traditional dishes you may remember from the former Bedford location, which ran simultaneously with the Halifax location for 14 years, along with various new dishes.

The Cellar Wine Bar & Grill has recently returned to the Spring Garden area and will be open during Shopping Under the Stars on December 6 until 10

Fans of the Cellar will be pleased to see that their signature Caesar salad is still on the menu, made with the same recipe that's been used since the

restaurant first opened nearly 30 years ago. For those who'd like to try something new, the peppered beef tenderloin, lamb ragu pasta, and duck croquettes have recently made their menu debut.

The Cellar also has hearty vegetarian options such as the butternut squash ravioli with blue cheese and walnuts, as well as the pesto rigatoni with pine nuts, garlic, and parmesan pesto.

Many of the Cellar's appetizers and entrees can also be made gluten-free upon request (for example, with rice pasta substitute.) In the gluten-free dessert department, there's the mouth-watering coconut panna cotta, served with mango coulis and toasted coconut.

Call 902-835-1592 for reservations or to book your holiday function.



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# One-stop shopping for great gifts

With Christmas Carolers merrily singing the tunes of the season, and stores passing out cups of hot cocoa and cider, Park Lane Mall will be putting shoppers in the holiday spirit.

Elizabeth Engram, manager of marketing and client relations for Park Lane Mall, says Shopping Under the Stars is a special time to meet up with friends, stroll around, and enjoy some leisurely holiday shopping.

"It's a great night to take advantage of discounts as you do your holiday shopping, but it's really about the atmosphere," says Engram. "It's such a good kick-off to the holiday season every year."

Engram says Shopping Under the Stars always reminds people about the fantastic stores on Spring

Garden Road, and allows them to experience them in a magical light – with everything decked out for the holidays.

"Most stores are offering tax-free shopping – so they pay the 15 per cent – and some are even offering 20 per cent off," says Engram. "We also have selected stores giving away products to the first 25 visitors, or passing out free samples or cups of apple cider."

Most stores are offering tax-free shopping on the majority of their items, and some

are even offering a 20 per cent discount or a "Buy one,

get one half-off" sale. Full details on each store's promo-

tions are available at [www.shoppingunderthestars.ca](http://www.shoppingunderthestars.ca).

to park in Park Lane's parkade at no charge from 5 to 10 p.m., so it's easier to get all of those heavy shopping bags back to their vehicles.

Engram says retailers look forward to Shopping Under the Stars each year, because it's a fun chance for them to offer a "party" atmosphere – and show their appreciation to their customers.

For shoppers, she says hitting up Park Lane means they'll easily be able to check items off their holiday gift lists – covering everything from electronics and games to clothing, footwear, and accessories.

"You really can get something for everyone on your list. It's one-stop shopping."



101.3 The BOUNCE will be broadcasting live from the steps of the Credit Union Atlantic building on Spring Garden Road. Shoppers can enter to win \$1,200 worth of gifts on the Spring Garden Area Business Association's tree, which includes \$100 in Park Lane Mall gift certificates. Everyone is also welcome

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[ShoppingUnderTheStars.ca](http://ShoppingUnderTheStars.ca)



PARK LANE  
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# Quality footwear for comfort and style

Is a loved one on your gift list longing for exclusive brand-name shoes this season? If you'd like to cross that name off your list and enjoy tax-free savings at the same time, be sure to stop into Mahone Bay Trading on December 6 from 5 to 10 p.m. during Shopping Under the Stars.

Located at the entrance to Park Lane Mall,

Mahone Bay Trading carries such brands as Frye, Aquatalia, Thierry Rabotin, and John Fluevog, not to mention several brands that

are exclusive to the East Coast.

In addition to the Spring Garden Road shop, Mahone Bay Trading also has another



selection of current stock plus a discount section of high-end brands at unbeatable prices.

Having multiple locations gives Mahone Bay Trading an edge over the competition as they often share inventory throughout the three stores. For customers, this means that whichever location they visit will have a wide variety of styles and sizes to fit every foot.

You don't need to visit several stores or make a special shopping trip to find quality fashion footwear combined with comfort.

HRM location at 201 Chain Lake Dr. in Bayer's Lake. The third store, located right in the heart of Mahone Bay at 544 Main St., has a large

# Turkish delights to be enjoyed

Café Istanbul's convenient location at 5986 Spring Garden Rd., offers a unique dining experience with an open kitchen concept allowing guests to watch the creation of their selections. Glorious art by Ned Pamphilon captures the essence of Istanbul and the interior glows at night under Turkish handmade lighting.

Fresh cuisine is a key contributor to the Café Istanbul's success, as the Chefs incorporate local Nova Scotia lamb as one of the most sought after specialties. Café Istanbul prides itself in offering the best ingredients in every dish. Traditional spices provide guests with tantalizing flavours and essential health

benefits. Garlic, oregano, mint and cumin appear in each mouth watering dish.


Enhance your meal with one of the Café's exquisite Turkish appetizers; best shared in the Meze platter, while you relax with a lovely glass of wine or locally roasted coffee. Guests may also wish to experience the unique perform-

ances of traditional Turkish dancers every Saturday evening at 7:30 and 8 p.m.


Not only has Café Istanbul been selected Best Food Winner for the last two years by readers of the Coast, reference Trip Advisor for astounding reviews. Experience the ambience, atmosphere and culinary delights of Turkey.

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# The place to enjoy demonstrations and find deals

If you're working up an appetite during your vigorous holiday shopping, Spring Garden Place will be passing out free snacks and treats – including sushi from Ko Doraku and spicy dishes from Ranjshesha's.

"You can try the best sushi in Halifax, and amazing Middle Eastern food. We're going to have live music, and models walking around showing off our merchandise," says Jonathan Schneider, commercial manager with Universal Properties. "Neville MacKay from My Mother's Bloomers will also be doing decorating demonstrations."

Schneider says Spring Garden Place makes it easy to shop for everyone on your holiday list, because of their luxurious vendors like Mills and Touch of Gold – the city's official Rolex retailer – and sell everything from home decor and art to clothing, shoes, cosmetics and jewellery.

It's also the perfect place to prepare for holiday soirees, with All Dressed Up selling a

gorgeous array of party frocks and Vitality Day Spa offering salon services, day spa treatments, and even cosmetic medical services like Botox and Juvaderm.

It's also going to be a great time to buy, because most of the shops and services are running specials – like tax-free shopping, or "Buy one item, get a second item half-off" promotions. Shoppers in Spring Garden Place can also fill out a ballot with any purchase for a chance to win a \$250 gift certificate.

"Our mall consists of mainly locally-owned vendors, so people really enjoy getting to support local boutiques," says Schneider. "It's always a great evening out."



# Update your kitchen



A true Nova Scotia party is a kitchen party – minus the bagpipes and tartan, of course.

"This is the time of year when people start looking at their kitchen and thinking about hosting holiday parties in it," says Louise O'Haran, owner of Kitchen Design Plus. "It's the perfect time to upgrade your countertops in time for Christmas."

As a holiday special, Kitchen Design Plus is giving away a free Bristol sink with every granite or quartz countertop purchase – saving homeowners between \$500 and \$800.

O'Haran says other com-

panies charge customers to work with their designers on decor decisions, but she and her team offer free consultations.

"We don't just do cabinets and countertops – we work with our clients to assist them with every aspect of their kitchen renovation," says O'Haran. "We help them decide on paint colours, backsplashes, and any other

decorating decisions."

As the only kitchen design company in the downtown core,

O'Haran says their Dresden Row studio is convenient for people who work in nearby offices, hospitals, and universities. They're also committed to connecting with their clients and working closely with them.

"Whether you're looking to completely remodel your kitchen or just update the countertops, now is the perfect time."



SPRING GARDEN PLACE

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PIZZAZZ**



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Tuck a tiny treasure in your loved one's stocking

from Frame-It's fabulous upside-down tree. Frame-It is locally-owned and operated. Prints by local artists including Alan Syliboy, Alice Reed, Alex Colville, Maud Lewis, Hal Jones and Judy Matthews are proudly featured, as well as locally-published books and cards and desk frames made in Lunenburg.

Drop in and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies as well as tax-free savings during Shopping Under the Stars on December 6th until 10 p.m.

Visit 5512 Spring Garden Rd. or call 429-3644. Frame-It have been Professional Framers since 1964.



# Shop, sleep and repeat deal

When Nova Scotians live a far distance from HRM, they often come into the city for a night – or a full weekend to do their holiday shopping and have access to hundreds of different stores.

Lesla Griffin, director of sales at the Lord Nelson

Hotel, says they're offering a Shop, Sleep, and Repeat package that includes a room, overnight parking, and a \$25 gift card to the shops on and around Spring Garden Road – starting at just \$129 a night.

But people aren't just purchasing a night at the hotel for themselves – it's also becoming a popular gift to give family members or friends.

"We're selling a lot of holiday gift cards right now, where the recipient receives \$120 towards a night at the Lord Nelson – but you only pay

\$99 for the gift card," says Griffin. "It's a great gift that anyone would appreciate."

During the Shopping Under the Stars event, visitors are encouraged to visit the Lord Nelson's beautifully-decorated lobby for a warm and welcoming rest stop. You can enjoy a cup of hot cider, and also make a donation to their toy drive.

"We enjoy having people come to stay with us so they can take full advantage of Shopping Under the Stars," says Griffin. "It's not just a day in a mall – it's a true shopping experience."



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# It's their first Christmas in Spring Garden Place, and Mills is celebrating in style

Lisa Gallivan, who owns Mills along with Kath Perry, Deanne MacLeod, and Candace Thomas, says they'll be offering tax-free shopping in their beautifully decorated

ucts to fashion and footwear to lingerie," says Gallivan.

She says their fashion lines – like collections by Michael Kors, Trina Turk, and Dennis Merotto – are popular year-

round. They also have exclusive lines like Armani Collezioni, and Judith & Charles – so many Halifaxians come in to shop for hard-to-find luxury gifts. Mills

two-level store.

"It's a great place to do holiday shopping, because we have lots of gifts in stock – everything from beauty prod-

associates are also happy to put together custom gift baskets full of cosmetics, fragrance, skincare, and any other favourite products.

"We have a brand-new line called Babor – a really lovely line of skincare and beauty products – so that will be a popular gift," says Gallivan. "We're also seeing a lot of people gravitate towards gifting winter boots and winter coats."

But if you're really not sure what to purchase for someone, Gallivan suggests gifting one of their services.

"We offer personal shopping services, as well as makeup applications and bra fittings," says Gallivan. "They're not always gift ideas people think of at first, but they're so useful – and always very appreciated."



# Delicious Chinese food for a family or feast

If you're looking for a way to warm up during Shopping Under the Stars, why not stop into Jean's Chinese Restaurant for some Pad Thai, Cantonese, Schezuan, or one of their newly-added Thai or Japanese specialties?

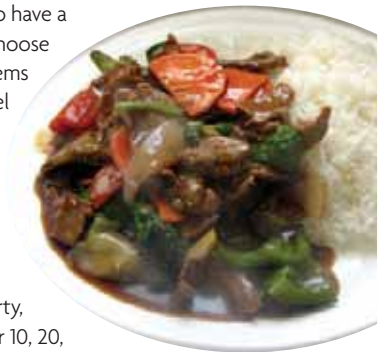
Located at 5972 Spring Garden Rd., Jean's serves up generous portions at unbeatable prices – it's been nominated Best Chinese Food in The Coast's Best Of Halifax survey for the past seven years. With more than 50 years experience in the food industry, Jean's has become a Halifax favourite known for having a diverse, flexible menu that

only features fresh ingredients and Grade "A" meats.

As items are cooked to order, most can be made gluten-free. Jean's also has a vegetarian menu to choose from, and all menu items are listed by their level of spiciness – so if you want Jean's to bring the heat, keep an eye out for the red chili icon.

If you're ordering food for a holiday party, Jean's party menus for 10, 20, 30, and 40 people are already discounted up to 35 per cent off the regular price. They gladly deliver from the party

menu as well as the regular menu to the Halifax peninsula, Bedford, Clayton Park, Spryfield or Dartmouth area.



For information or a full menu, visit [Jeansrestaurant.ca](http://Jeansrestaurant.ca) or call 902-444-7776.

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## Holiday gift guide

Kobo Aura HD  
— \$169.99.



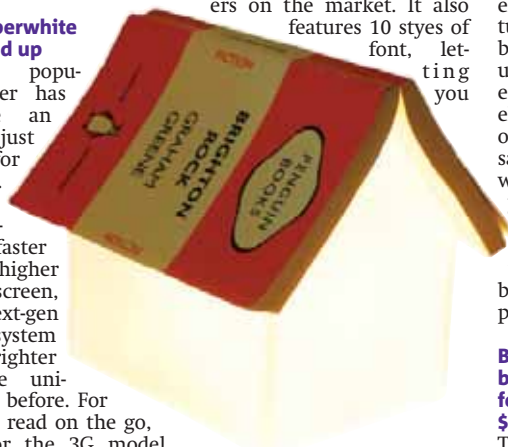
which lets you download books without Wi-Fi and no monthly fees.



Don't just buy the bookworm on your list another paperback. Think outside the box and get them some tech they can use to enhance their reading experiences.

### Kindle Paperwhite — \$139 and up

Amazon's popular eReader has undergone an upgrade, just in time for Christmas. The latest model features a faster processor, higher contrast screen, and a next-gen lighting system that is brighter and more uniform than before. For those who read on the go, splurge for the 3G model,



### Kobo Aura HD — \$169.99

Text so crisp and clear you will forget you are reading on an electronic device. Kobo Aura HD features an ultra-high resolution display with 265 dpi, higher than most eReaders on the market. It also features 10 styles of font, letting you



### DryCASE waterproof eReader case — \$66.98

Know someone who likes to take their eReader in the bathtub? How about the beach? These vacuum sealed pouches protect your eReader (among other devices) from dirt, sand, and, most importantly, water, while still allowing you to use them. They also have built-in headphone and microphone jacks. Not the sexiest case, but it beats using a plastic bag.

### BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — \$79.99 and up

These stylish cases



# Season's readings

customize your reading experience. Kobo remains a Wi-Fi only device.

### Classic Novel eReader covers — \$24 and up

Disguise any eReader as a classic novel. These U.K.-made covers come in a variety of sizes for multiple eReaders and span a wide variety of literary styles. Not only are these covers stylish, they also protect your valuable eReader from scratches.



helps disperse light, making it perfect by which to read.

disguise your MacBook or MacBook Air as an antique leather bound book. Each case is made from genuine leather and is hand-distressed so no two cases look the same. When the case is closed, your computer looks just like a book, helping to mask it from the eyes of thieves.

### Book Rest Lamp — \$64.54

Place your favourite book on top of the light base to create a stylish reading light. Or simply use the base as a bookmark. The frosted glass

### Blurb Self Publishing — Various prices

A great gift for the creative person on your list. Blurb lets anyone publish a novel, cookbook, photo book or magazine through its online service. Upload the text and photos, pick a layout and wait as the finished professional product is mailed to you. Gift card options are available.



BookBook Hardback Leather Case for MacBook — \$79.99 and up, clockwise, from top, Classic Novel eReader covers — \$24 and up, Blurb Self Publishing — various prices, Book Rest Lamp — \$64.54, DryCASE waterproof eReader case — \$66.98, and Kindle Paperwhite — \$139 and up.

20  
shopping  
days left



For more holiday gift ideas, please visit [holiday.metronews.ca](http://holiday.metronews.ca)



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\$52, available at  
foxyoriginals.com.

Banana Republic  
Turquoise State-  
ment Necklace,  
\$134, available at  
Banana Republic,  
bananarepublic.ca.

Tiffany sterling silver  
Atlas Lariat, \$275,  
available at Tiffany,  
tiffany.ca.


Baublebar Crystal  
Diadem Drops earrings,  
\$34 US, available at  
baublebar.com.

Swarovski Knot  
Ring, \$120,  
available at  
Swarovski,  
swarovski.ca.


Swatch Escaille watch  
with plastic tortoise shell  
strap, \$75, available at  
department stores,  
swatch.com.

Haitian Hand-Beaded  
Necklace, \$100, available  
at worldvision.ca/gifts or  
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# Pick a Christmas tree that makes the cut

**Choices.** Firs have taken over from pine trees when it comes to real trees in the home



**MICHELLE WILLIAMS**  
For Metro

All Christmas trees are beautiful — even Charlie Brown's scrawny little twig was a winner once it was all jacked up with decorations.

But if you are a bit fussier, here is a list of some of the most popular trees with the help of Arthur Loewen, president of the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association.

At one time, the pine tree was the No. 1 holiday tree, but this wide, heavy, long-needled tree has been replaced in popularity by the fir, a lighter, thinner, short-needled tree grown in many varieties across the country.

Native to Canada's East Coast, the Balsam fir is a nice-looking, hardy tree that sells for a relatively good price.

"It keeps moderately well, has rigid stems that don't sag when you hang decorations, and it has a thin trunk, which makes it easier to handle and put into a stand," Loewen said.

Gaining in popularity is the Fraser fir, also found primarily in Eastern Canada, but also in the west. It's pricier for a few reasons.

"It's the best needle keeper when you bring it in-



Real Christmas trees can help enhance the holiday experience. PRESSMASTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

side," Loewen said. "It's lightweight, narrow, has the most rigid branches, and tends to last longer than the Balsam.

But the big reason for the extra cost is that there is more work in raising a Fraser fir to harvest. They take longer to grow than other firs, they grow best in dry areas and are more prone to disease and insects.

In the West, the Douglas fir tops the list.

"It matures quickly, so it's

not as expensive to grow," Loewen said.

However, it doesn't last as long and the branches do sag a bit more than the more expensive Noble fir, also native to the West.

"The Noble fir is much like the Fraser, except it has a bluish colour," Loewen said.

Priced like the Fraser, this "king of the Christmas trees" grows slowly but does well as a holiday tree.

## Christmas Tree Day

The Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association has declared Dec. 7 as National Christmas Tree Day. The following are some facts and figures from the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association:

- The total value of the Christmas tree exportations (wholesale value) in 2011 was \$1.7 million.

- Canada harvests approximately 2.5 millions trees annually

- More than 34,600 hectares (76,700 acres) were used for growing Christmas trees in Canada in 2011.

- There were 2,381 Christmas tree plantations in Canada in 2001.

- Each hectare produces enough oxygen for 40 people.

- For more about National Christmas Tree Day, visit [canadianchristmastrees.ca](http://canadianchristmastrees.ca).



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\*Up to a maximum of \$4000 donated to food banks in Nova Scotia by Food Banks Canada on behalf of Sawmill Creek Wines from November 1st to December 31st, 2013. Please enjoy responsibly.



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# Kitty's Christmas



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\$35, available at Chapters/  
Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



Pet Stocking,  
\$6, available at  
Real Canadian  
Superstore,  
superstore.ca

Pet Valu Pre-  
mium Catnip,  
\$1.99-\$5.29,  
available  
at Pet  
Valu,  
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Tee Pee Cat Play-  
house, \$35, avail-  
able at Chapters/  
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Jump Sushi  
Box With  
Catnip  
Toys,  
\$11.99,  
available  
at Pet Valu,  
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Junior  
HOLIDAY SALE: \$129<sup>99</sup>  
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**WARRIOR KROWN 360**

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**REEBOK 20K PUMP**

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**SAVE \$50**

**REEBOK 14K PUMP**

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HOLIDAY SALE: \$199<sup>99</sup>  
Our reg. price: \$249<sup>99</sup>

**SAVE \$20**

**BAUER VAPOR X 6.0**

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# Santa's stash for teen boys



HD Microscope Telescope Set, \$49.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



Stormtrooper Vinyl Bobblehead, \$11.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



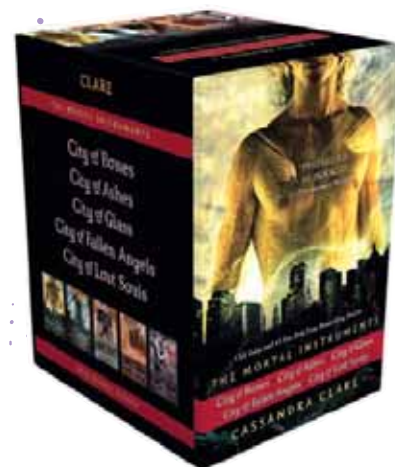
Snow Crossbow, \$44.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



Snowball Maker, \$9.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



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Compact Curling, \$19.99, available at independent toy retailers, borgfeldt.ca.



K2 Entity Snow Helmet, \$61, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.



Yoga Mat, \$20.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.



Halti Kirri Jacket, \$130, available at Mountain Equipment Co-op, mec.ca.



SPORTS Bike Cap, \$14.95, available at chic-savvy.com.



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# Festive flicks to enjoy with the family



**MICHELLE WILLIAMS**  
For Metro

It's time to settle in with the family for a night of holiday fun watching your favourite festive videos.

Metro asked Dave Bullard, purchasing manager for Movie Experts Inc. in Toronto, to choose some popular movie titles for the holiday season.

## Home Alone (1990)

Starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, and Daniel Stern.



An eight-year-old boy, accidentally left behind by his family, must defend his home against idiotic burglars. Mischievous, almost

cartoonish, fun for all ages. Don't miss John Candy as Gus Polinski, polka king of the Midwest.

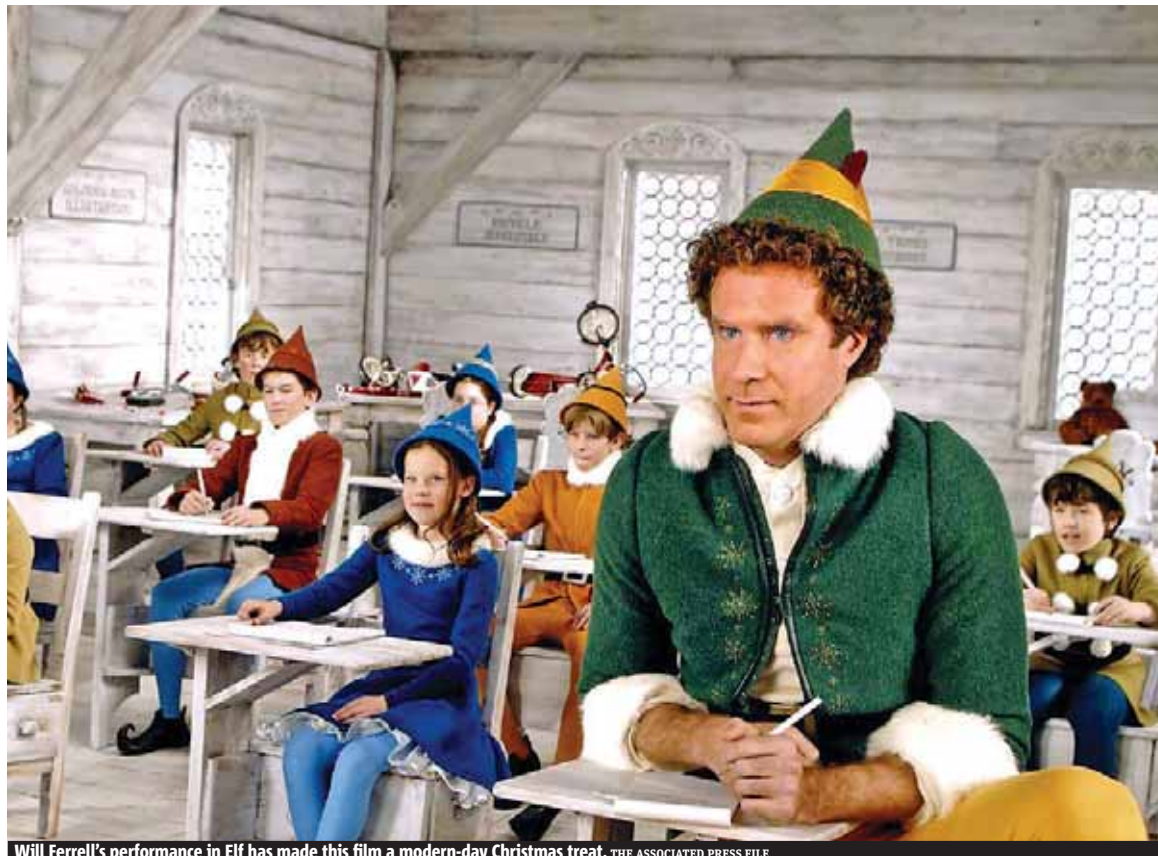
## Elf (2003)

Starring Will Ferrell, James Caan, and Bob Newhart. The story of a young child who was adopted by Christmas



elves, then returns to the human world to find his father and his true identity. Ferrell's performance as an over-

sized elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat.



Will Ferrell's performance in Elf has made this film a modern-day Christmas treat. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)

Starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, and Juliette Lewis. The Griswold family gathers for Christmas where nothing seems to go right. Shocking at times and quite hilarious, it's a Christmas movie that has become regu-

lar holiday viewing for many.

## A Christmas Story (1983)

Starring Peter Billingsley, Darren McGavin, and Melinda Dillon. A boy's yearning to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas and all the trials and tribulations that go into getting one. The

film just has so many memorable movie moments, like the tongue stuck on the pole, that are hard to forget.

## The Santa Clause (1994)

Starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, and Wendy Crewson. A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Clause

and, in doing so, assumes the mantle of being jolly old St. Nick. Allen shines as a reluctant Santa Clause, so much so that it spawned two sequels.

## Scrooged (1988)

Starring Bill Murray, Karen Allen, and John Forsythe. An

updated take on the classic A Christmas Story, with Murray taking on the role of a wicked

man with little time left to change his ways. A fresh take on a holiday classic with loads of cameo appearances. Murray is slimy and reprehensible, which makes him the perfect Scrooge.



## Scoot & Kassie's Christmas Adventure (2013)

Starring Luke Perry, Ariana Bagley, and Taylor Negron. New this holiday season, Kassie and her friends have organized a charity concert for less-fortunate kids, but when two crooks steal the cash,



Kassie's pet dog Scoot (a former police dog) leads an unlikely group of heroes to catch the bad guys and save Christmas. A heartwarming charmer that will have the whole family cheering.

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**Biotherm Homme Special-Edition Skincare gift set** (\$52 via biotherm.ca) and **Rob Stewart's Revolution** (\$15 via Target, Futuresshop and therevolutionmovie.com) are sold separately, but together make a great underwater adventure theme gift. Both contribute to charities that protect global ocean resources.

**Braun CoolTec Shaver** is the first dry electric razor that cools skin during use to reduce shaving irritation. From \$149.99 at London Drugs and Best Buy. See braun.com for more retailers.

**Clarisonic Aria** is the latest version of the lauded skin care cleansing system. It's more streamlined, travel-friendly, has three speeds and comes in black. \$225 at Shoppers Drug Mart beauty boutiques and Sephora.

**Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer** wakes skin up with antioxidants vitamins C and E as well as soy. Heavy Lifting Firming Moisturizer helps get rid of flaky patches, minimizes fine lines and improves elasticity and firmness. \$30 and \$40 at Kiehls stores and kiehls.ca.

**Lush Dirty Gift Set** is a zippy fresh, wake-him-up trio of Dirty Springwash shower gel, Dirty Body Spray

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**Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover** swiftly and painlessly buffs away rough, dry skin to leave feet smooth and comfortable. \$49.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart.

**Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate** is a quick-absorb fluid that controls oil and shine, and firms and brightens skin, too. \$70 at Hudson's Bay and thebay.com.

**Sonicare Black Diamond-Clean Electric Toothbrush** delivers 31,000 brush strokes in two minutes, whiter teeth in seven days, and improved gum health in two weeks. Comes with USB rechargeable case. \$229.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Target and London Drugs.

**Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap** are long-lasting, triple-milled, skin-softening natural soaps scented with zesty bitter orange and orange twig. \$16 each at select boutiques; tayskin.com.



Aveda Invati, clockwise, from left, Lush Dirty Gift Set, Tay Essential Oils Bar Soap, Clarisonic Aria, Shiseido Man Active Energizing Concentrate, Braun CoolTec Shaver, Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Moisturizer, and Micropedi Man Rapid Hard Skin Remover.

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High-Tops, \$27.94,  
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Old Navy,  
oldnavy.ca



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NHL

## No luck for Leafs on injury front

Injuries continue to pile up for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Phil Kessel left practice early with an unspecified injury, and coach Randy Carlyle said he wasn't sure if the star winger would be able to play Thursday night against the Dallas Stars.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keon Clark

## Ex-Raptor gets 8 years in prison

Former Toronto Raptor Keon Clark, who has said he is trying to turn his life around, was sentenced to eight years in prison Wednesday in a plea agreement with prosecutors on weapons and driving under the influence charges.

Clark pleaded guilty to two charges in two separate cases and was given four years for each count. He previously faced weapon, drug and traffic-related charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

## Steelers coach's sideline shuffle proves costly

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin's ill-timed two-step has cost him \$100,000 and could cost his team a pick in next year's draft.

The league fined Tomlin \$100,000 on Wednesday for nearly colliding with Baltimore's Jacoby Jones during a kickoff return on Thanksgiving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# More than just a job for Herd's gear head

**QMJHL.** Chris MacDonald's dedication and loyalty to his players has resulted in a big-time hockey opportunity



ANDREW RANKIN

andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

Over the years, Chris MacDonald has established lasting bonds with former Halifax Mooseheads players.

From time to time Jakub Voracek will check in to see what's what; Bryce Swan remains a pretty good friend.

As the Mooseheads' equipment manager for eight years and counting, his focus and loyalty remains with the current players at home, and on the road.

He's at the rink bright and early, taking care of any number of matters, from sewing up ripped jerseys, to repairing damaged skate blades or simply ensuring the team's dressing room is tip-top come game time.

"I want the guys to succeed," said MacDonald. "It's satisfying to make those relationships, you're just one big family. You've been to battle with those guys on a day-to-day basis."

### Behind the scenes

**"I like to make sure players have no issues; I take a lot of pride in that. When they walk into that dressing room, it's game time and I want to make sure that's their only focus."**

Mooseheads equipment manager Chris MacDonald



Chris MacDonald works one of his endless roles as equipment manager for the Mooseheads. ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

set its sights on MacDonald.

"I couldn't say no. It's one step closer to working in the NHL. You're a part of something special. I know I'm just a little piece in the cog but it feels so special to be involved with that group," he said.

Players have come to respect his attention to detail. He's almost basically a teammate. At least that's the way Mooseheads forward Darcy Ashley sees it.

"You walk into the room you know it's going to be perfect," said Ashley. "He's taken care of all the little knicks and knacks, how we like things

done. He does the things that make our lives a lot smoother and easier."

In fact he remains closest to Ashley and another of the Mooseheads' overagers, Brent Andrews. As far as hockey life goes, the trio have shared ultimate lows and highs in the four-plus years they've shared with the team.

"I'll miss those two guys. They're leaders in the dressing room. They're respectful, really decent guys."

But on Thursday, it will be business as usual for MacDonald as the Mooseheads take on the Victoriaville Tigres at home.

# Ex-NBAer Hodges to head coach Rainmen



The Rainmen's new interim coach Craig Hodges JEFF HARPER/METRO

He won two NBA championships alongside Michael Jordan, and was an assistant to coaching legend Phil Jackson.

Now, Craig Hodges is in charge of turning around the winless Halifax Rainmen.

With Hodges by his side, team owner Andre Levingston officially announced the former 10-year NBA veteran as the Rainmen's interim head coach at Scotia Square on Tuesday morning.

With a background in player development, Hodges said his focus is working with the Rain-

men's current roster rather than pushing for a team facelift. "I'm about trying to see what we have and making sure what we have is good enough to win," said Hodges.

He replaces Chris Terrell, fired last week after the Rainmen's 0-6 start to the season.

As an NBA player, Hodges established himself from long range. A career 40 per cent three-point shooter, he won the all-star three-point contest three times in his career.

The 52-year-old won two championships with the Chi-

### Starting over again ... again

**"We are ecstatic to bring a person of this calibre to Halifax to help the Rainmen usher in a new era."**

Rainmen owner Andre Levingston

cago Bulls and was a special assistant to former Los Angeles Lakers head coach Phil Jackson for six years.

Hodges wasn't prepared

to make a long-term commitment to the Rainmen, saying he would reevaluate his future after season's end.

"It's about staying in the moment, I'm not one to look to the past; I'm not one to look too far into the future," said Hodges.

"I'm looking at right now. I'm not worried about who was here yesterday, I'm concerned about what are we going to do in practice tomorrow.... If we do the right things, I'm sure there will be opportunity to come back next year."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



# Desharnais and Eller tip the scale in the Habs' favour

**NHL.** Devils continue to come up short in shootouts, fall to 0-5 in games that go past OT

The New Jersey Devils struggled to slow down David Desharnais on Wednesday.

Desharnais scored the tying goal with 37 seconds left in the third period and added a goal in the shootout and the Montreal Canadiens rallied for a 4-3 victory over the Devils.

"We're finding ways to win games," Desharnais said. "They took the lead and we had to open up things. I just go in there and try to score (in the shootout). (Devils goalie Cory Schneider) opened up his leg and I put it right there."

Desharnais' tying goal in



David Desharnais against the Devils on Wednesday. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

the third was reviewed by the NHL to see if he had lifted his stick too high in redirecting the slapshot taken by teammate Brian Gionta.

"I was sure it was a goal," Desharnais said. "I tipped one earlier this year that was a

little higher than that, so there was no doubt."

Lars Eller also scored in the third period and the shootout for the Canadiens, who also beat the Devils in Montreal on Monday night.

Reid Boucher, credited with an assist on Michael Ryder's goal in the third period, scored for the Devils in the shootout, breaking a string of 20 straight missed chances by the Devils, who are 0-5 in shootouts this season.

The Devils have lost nine straight shootouts, dating back to March 15 in Philadelphia.

Patrik Elias' unassisted goal at 18:54 had given the Devils a 3-2 edge, but Desharnais scored for Montreal and forced overtime.

The teams combined for five goals in the third period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## See you in the finals, Jenny

Skip Jennifer Jones waves to the crowd after defeating Stefanie Lawton 8-3 at the Canadian Olympic curling trials in Winnipeg on Wednesday. Later at night, Jones clinched a spot in the finals with a 7-6 victory over Rachel Homan. Jones, a four-time Canadian champion, upped her record to 5-1 when she stole a point in the 10th end. The final is Saturday night and the winner will represent Canada at next year's Olympics in Sochi, Russia. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

### NBA

## Smoke in arena postpones game

A generator malfunction is being blamed for the postponing of the scheduled game between the San Antonio Spurs and Minnesota Timberwolves in Mexico City on Wednesday.

The arena was evacuated about 45 minutes before the scheduled 9:30 p.m. EST tipoff when smoke poured into the building.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### MLB

## Red Sox fill void behind the plate

The Boston Red Sox began rebuilding for their World Series title defence Wednesday when they signed free-agent catcher A.J. Pierzynski to a one-year contract.

A two-time all-star, Pierzynski will take over for the switch-hitting Jarrod Saltalamacchia, who agreed to a three-year, \$21-million deal with the Miami Marlins on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	27	18	7	2	75	55	38
Montreal	29	17	9	3	80	62	37
Detroit	29	14	8	7	81	79	35
Tampa Bay	27	16	10	1	76	67	33
Toronto	28	14	11	3	77	77	31
Ottawa	28	11	13	4	82	92	26
Florida	28	7	16	5	61	95	19
Buffalo	28	6	20	2	48	85	14

##### METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	29	19	9	1	89	66	39
Washington	28	14	12	2	83	82	30
NY Rangers	28	14	14	0	62	71	28
Philadelphia	28	13	13	2	63	68	28
New Jersey	29	11	12	6	64	71	28
Carolina	28	11	12	5	61	79	27
Columbus	28	11	14	3	68	80	25
NY Islanders	28	8	15	5	74	96	21

#### Wednesday's results

Montreal 4 New Jersey 3 (SO)  
Philadelphia 6 Detroit 3  
Phoenix at Calgary

#### Tuesday's results

San Jose 4 Toronto 2  
Phoenix 6 Edmonton 2  
Vancouver 3 Nashville 1  
Ottawa 4 Florida 2  
Carolina 4 Washington 1  
Columbus 1 Tampa Bay 0  
Pittsburgh 3 NY Islanders 2 (OT)  
Dallas 4 Chicago 3  
Los Angeles 3 Anaheim 2 (SO)

#### Thursday's games

All times Eastern  
Dallas at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
NY Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Florida, 7:30 p.m.  
Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.  
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
Carolina at Nashville, 8 p.m.  
NY Islanders at St. Louis, 8 p.m.  
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.  
**Friday's games**  
San Jose at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Columbus, 7 p.m.

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	29	20	5	4	105	80	44
St. Louis	26	18	5	3	91	60	39
Colorado	25	19	6	0	76	52	38
Minnesota	29	16	8	5	70	67	37
Dallas	26	13	9	4	74	76	30
Winnipeg	29	13	12	4	78	82	30
Nashville	28	13	12	3	63	78	29

##### PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	27	19	3	5	96	62	43
Anaheim	30	18	7	5	93	80	41
Los Angeles	29	18	7	4	76	62	40
Phoenix	27	16	7	4	91	86	36
Vancouver	30	15	10	5	80	78	35
Calgary	26	9	13	4	70	93	22
Edmonton	29	9	18	2	75	101	20

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

Detroit at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
Anaheim at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
Phoenix at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

#### SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	15	23	38
Malkin, Pgh	7	30	37
Kane, Chi	16	16	32
Getzlaf, Ana	14	18	32
Tavares, NYI	11	21	32
Steen, STL	20	11	31
Perry, Ana	16	15	31
Ovechkin, Wash	21	9	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Thornton, SJ	5	25	30
Kunitz, Pgh	14	14	28
Couture, SJ	10	18	28
H. Sedin, Van	7	21	28
Karlsson, Ott	7	20	27
Ryan, Ott	14	12	26

Wednesday's games not included

### MLS PLAYOFFS

#### MLS CUP

##### Saturday's game

Kansas City vs. Salt Lake, 4 p.m., EST

### NFL

Thursday's game — All times Eastern  
Houston at Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m.

#### Sunday's games

Kansas City at Washington, 1 p.m.  
Minnesota at Baltimore, 1 p.m.  
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.  
Oakland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.  
Miami at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Cleveland at New England, 1 p.m.  
Indianapolis at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.  
Atlanta at Green Bay, 1 p.m.  
Detroit at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
Tennessee at Denver, 4:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.  
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.  
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.  
Carolina at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

#### Monday's game

Dallas at Chicago, 8:40 p.m.

### NBA

#### Wednesday's results

Atlanta 107 L.A. Clippers 97  
Phoenix 97 Houston 88  
Dallas 100 New Orleans 97  
Indiana 95 Utah 86  
Cleveland 98 Denver 88  
Detroit 105 Milwaukee 98  
San Antonio vs. Minnesota, ppd.  
Oklahoma City at Portland  
**Tuesday's results**  
Philadelphia 126 Orlando 125 (OT)  
Denver 111 Brooklyn 87  
Boston 108 Milwaukee 100  
Detroit 107 Miami 97  
Memphis 110 Phoenix 91  
Dallas 89 Charlotte 82  
Oklahoma City 97 Sacramento 95  
Golden State 112 Toronto 103

**Thursday's games — All times Eastern**  
New York at Brooklyn, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Miami at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.  
**Friday's games**  
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Denver at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Orlando at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Golden State at Houston, 8 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.



## Horoscopes

### Aries

March 21 - April 20

A friend you have not seen for a while will come back into your life today, tomorrow or over the weekend. This time, when you say farewell, promise to stay in touch — and mean it.

### Taurus

April 21 - May 21

What you focus your attention on today will seem more important than it is, so make sure you focus on positive things. Your mind is a powerful tool and can create happiness as easily as it creates sadness.

### Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Partners and loved ones will be full of themselves today and you may find it hard to get a word in edgeways. Give the impression you are listening, even if your mind is far away.

### Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You have much to do over the next 24 hours, so start early and don't expect to get home until late. When your head hits the pillow, put all the worries of the day behind you. Tomorrow will be as trying. Get some rest.

### Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Mercury, planet of communication and the mind, joins the Sun in the most creative area of your chart today. What does that mean? You must let the world know your achievements — of which there are plenty.

### Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

What happens today, tomorrow and over the weekend may look chaotic but if you cross your eyes slightly, you will see there is a pattern. Never doubt that your life is moving in the right direction.

### Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

The more you are on the move the today, the more likely it is you'll meet people who bring a smile to your face. What could be more important than that?

### Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You will, as usual, get your way today and you will, as usual, win whatever battle of words and wits you are involved in. But, just because you win does not mean you are right.

### Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you are not doing so already, you should be making big plans. Cosmic activity in your birth sign indicates that the more things you start the more you will accomplish and the more fun you will have.

### Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It may seem as if you are being held back by circumstances beyond your control but is that true? The planets indicate it's likely that you're putting mental obstacles in your path that have no reason being there.

### Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Friendships and social activities are under excellent stars but why wait for other people to make things happen? Get out and make them happen yourself. A sense of adventure will take you a long way.

### Pisces

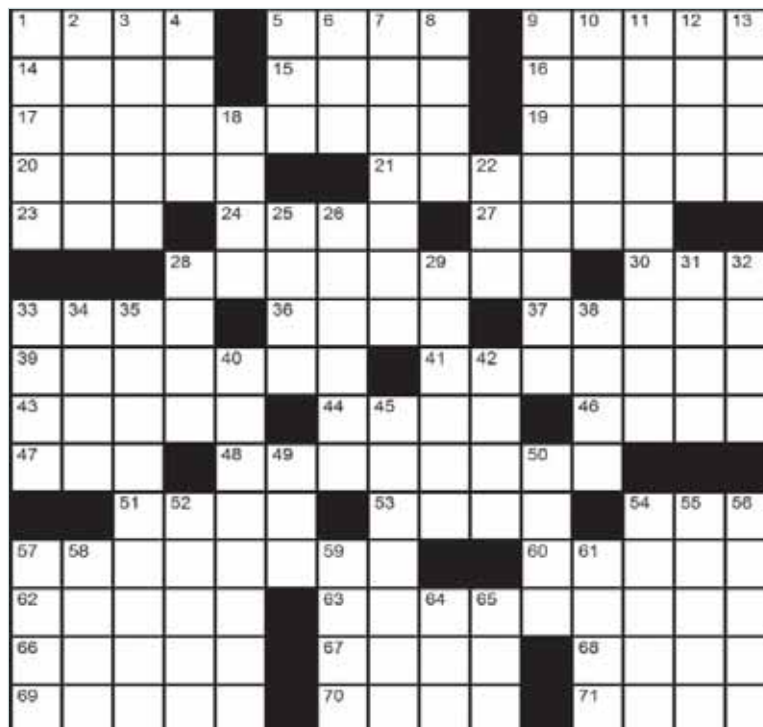
Feb. 20 - March 20

Someone in a position of authority will praise you for a job well done and your confidence will go through the roof. But don't get sloppy. The reason you did such a good job was because you planned and worked hard. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

### Across

- Supreme god of Greek myth
- Actress Cameron
- Snail's trail
- Once
- "Why, \_\_\_ honoured!"
- Hermit
- "Canada AM" viewing time
- Hockey game instrument
- Harsh
- City on Lake Ontario between Hamilton and Toronto
- Dadaist Jean
- Top notcher
- Simplicity
- Winter shoveller's side-of-driveway creation
- Obi-\_\_\_ Kenobi
- Diminutive data
- CD part, variantly
- Q. "\_\_\_ a U2 song?" A. "Yes."
- Regina-born actor Leslie
- It's helpful in making a comparison
- Military trainee
- 19th-century Danish composer, Niels \_\_\_
- Prefix meaning 'Thought'
- 'Verb' suffix (Wordy)
- Not a good fit
- Uncommon, in Latin
- Writer Roald



- Directions provider
- China's biggest city
- Depart
- "Rolie \_\_\_ Olie"
- Toronto transport
- For \_\_\_ see (Open for the public)
- Promissory notes

- Stylish
- Ancient civilization of Central America
- Family \_\_\_
- Sacred

### Down

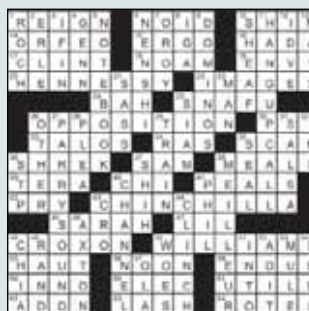
- Z as in \_\_\_
- Mistake

- Consume completely: 2 wds.
- Pre-wedding event
- "Who cares?" = "What's the \_\_\_?"
- Ms. Lupino
- Does sponge work
- Catherine \_\_\_ Jones
- European country where Bratislava is

- the capital
- Loughlin and Singer
- Artsy area of Calgary
- Lunch, for example
- Coastal bird [var. sp.]
- Genghis \_\_\_ (Mon-

- gol emperor)
- Mattel guy
- Encrypt
- "Dallas" family, The \_\_\_
- Exclusive
- Evangeline's home
- Ms. Jolie, to pals
- Single-named singer with a hyphen in his name
- Sudbury landmark, \_\_\_ Superstack
- Ms. Vardalos, and others
- \_\_\_-funded agency
- Dropped in stand-ins
- Primitive fish
- Belgium neighbour, for short
- Michael Ferguson, \_\_\_ General of Canada
- "Uh-uh."
- She, in Sherbrooke
- "West Side Story" (1961) character
- Manly
- Help
- "When a Man Loves a Woman" by \_\_\_ Sledge
- Meat-in-a-can
- Greeting in Granada!
- "Be that \_\_\_ may..."
- Engrave
- Ms. McClanahan
- 'Legal' suffix (Lawyer-speak)

## Yesterday's Crossword

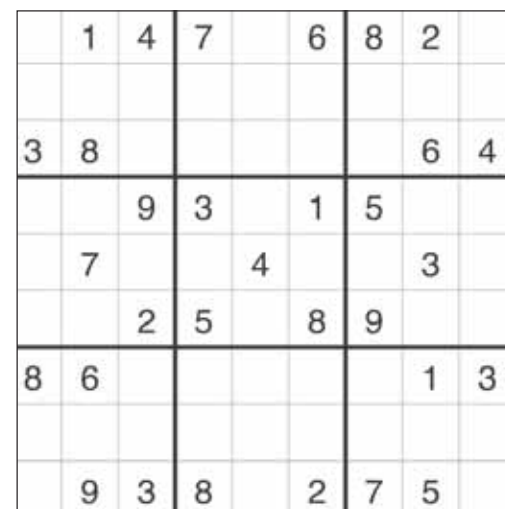


## Sudoku

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku



**Today**

3°/2°

Mainly sunny

**Friday**

9°/-3°

Rain

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